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Toxic fumes kill 4

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Nona: A pop duo with a difference

Time Out



Ambassador Indyk sums up

The Magazine

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Bakshi-Doron to Hebron mufti: Pig poster was disgusting

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron met with Hebron Mufti Sheikh Mahmud Nizal Tahboub last night in a bid to calm the furor over the leaflet depicting Mohammed as a pig writing the Koran.

"I came to relay my disgust at this act and I fully understand the pain it causes to Moslem believers. This is a grave act which is forbidden, especially because it is one of the factors that escalated the dispute and sowed the seeds of hatred," Bakshi-Doron said after the 45-minute meeting at the Machpela Cave.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan suggested the meeting, and Tahboub agreed to attend, after gaining Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's approval.

The two agreed to work together towards peace, and Tahboub promised that he would relay Bakshi-Doron's message at today's prayers. The chief rabbi also invited the mufti to visit him at the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem. (Tim)

IDF nabs riot leaders



An undercover IDF soldier arrests a Palestinian rioter in Hebron yesterday. The youth was one of a group of some half-dozen stonethrowers infiltrated by the special troops as they began hurling rocks at the Jewish neighborhood around Beit Hadassah. The arrests mark the first time undercover troops have been used in an effort to put a stop to daily clashes that have left dozens of Palestinians and soldiers wounded. (Reuters)

Undercover troops in Hebron infiltrate stonethrowers

By JON IMMANUEL, MICHAL YUDELMAN, JAY BUSHINSKY and HILLEL KUTTNER

For the first time since Palestinians began rioting in Hebron, masked undercover troops yesterday infiltrated them, pouncing on and arresting several stonethrowers.

One undercover soldier, his face

covered by a black hood like many of the rioters, held a youth who had just burned an Israeli flag in a choke hold and waved his pistol at other rioters to keep them at bay.

When the Palestinian youths approached the gates protecting the Jewish settlement in Beit Hadassah in the H-2 section of Hebron, undercover soldiers - who had joined the protests from the Palestinian Authority side of town - turned on them and jumped them. The masked troops marched seven or more youths away for interrogation behind the gates of Shuhadeh Street.

According to Palestinian sources, five rioters were hurt, one of them a youth hit in the face by rubber bullet.

This was the first time direct physical contact was made between rioters and troops since the protests began three weeks ago.

Border Police chief Cmdr. Yisrael Sadan criticized the behavior of the border policemen involved in the incidents and promised a comprehensive investigation.

"We are all frustrated," said one 20-year-old medic, who would only give his first name, Yaniv. "I'm in the best unit in the army, and I stand in front of kids throwing stones. They fight for an idea, and I'm okay with that, but two of my friends got hurt by a pipe bomb," he said.

Outsmarting the rioters, Page 2

"We sent the Palestinian Police a

See **HEBRON**, Page 2

Tel Aviv cafe bomber escapes from PA jail

By JON IMMANUEL

One of the three men arrested by the Palestinian Authority in connection with the Apropro cafe bombing in Tel Aviv in March and other attacks on Israelis escaped from Hebron jail yesterday, according to Palestinian sources.

There was no official confirmation of the escape of Ibrahim Ranimat. The prime minister's spokesman, Shai Bazak, said he had heard only media reports of the escape.

Ranimat is the second man in a month reported to have escaped from jail after being arrested for being involved in the killing of Israelis. The first, Nasser Kayssi,

sentenced to life in Jericho for the murder of a mother and son from Beit El, escaped two weeks ago and has not yet been recaptured.

Ranimat was one of three members of a Hamas cell arrested in Hebron by the PA after a tip-off by Israeli security forces who had arrested other members of the cell in Tzurif. The arrests led to the discovery in April of the body of missing soldier Sharon Edri.

Coming against the background of the failure of political talks and clashes in Hebron, there is reason to assume that Ranimat's "escape" might have been engineered to placate Hamas. He was being held without charges.

Bezeq workers yield, hook up competitors

By JUDY SIEGEL

The era of competition in overseas dialing began with a muted ring yesterday, as Bezeq workers bowed to public pressure and began to connect the international exchanges of Barak and Golden Lines to Bezeq's phone network.

Previously, the staff had refused to carry out instructions by Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Bezeq Director-

General Ami Erel on the grounds that Bezeq International was not allowed to charge cheaper rates than the two newcomers.

The 02 and 07 dialing areas were hooked up to Barak and Golden Lines, and 09 to Barak. Today, 04 and 06 will be hooked up to Barak and Golden Lines, and 03 and 08 to Barak. On Sunday, Golden Lines will be linked to 03 and on Monday to 08 and 09.

The two new companies may charge their cheap rates immediately, but Bezeq International, whose rates have not yet been approved by Livnat, will continue to collect its significantly higher rates in the interim. Marathon talks involving Livnat and representatives of the three companies were held yesterday in Tel Aviv to try to settle the issues.

The partial launching of competitive services was an embarrassment to the ministry, which had hoped to kick off the new era with a bang.

Bezeq's 2.6 million subscribers will be able to call overseas by dialing 012 for Golden Lines, 013 for Barak, and 014 for Bezeq International, which until now has been a monopoly accessed by directly dialing 00 or the operator-assisted line at 188.

After a meeting with Bezeq workers, Erel yesterday wished Barak and Golden Lines success. He expressed hope that the ministry would open the field to competition "while preserving the status and strength of Bezeq International."

Mati Caspi to open Arad Festival

By HELEN KAYE and Tim

Singer-songwriter Mati Caspi, who received a hero's welcome upon his return yesterday from a four-year self-imposed exile in Canada and the US, will open this year's Arad Festival on July 15.

His plans include a concert tour, cutting a new CD, and appearances with the Israel Philharmonic in the fall.

He denounced as "utterly baseless" the rumors that he has become a Christian and said that whoever spread those rumors would have to answer for them in court.

He said the source of the rumors was a speech made by one of his friends at a private party marking his remarriage, which was misunderstood by others present. "People heard the speech and decided I'd converted. I felt terrible."

"I'm an Israeli, I was born a Jew and I will always remain a Jew," he said.

Caspi said that he has returned for good. His second wife, Rachel, and their two young daughters, who are still in California, would follow when he has "tied up all the loose ends." He did not elaborate.

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Haifa 7:23 p.m.	8:35 p.m.
BeerSheva 7:26 p.m.	8:24 p.m.
Eilat 7:22 p.m.	8:28 p.m.



NEWS

in brief

Morag settlers stoned by neighbors

Palestinians yesterday afternoon stoned some 40 settlers from Morag who attempted to fence in the area where Palestinians had dismantled protest tents earlier in the week. Soldiers and police drove off the stonethrowers and pulled down the fence, the IDF Spokesman said.

Meanwhile, settlers claimed that Palestinians continued to use the stretch of beach near Kfar Yam that had been taken over by the Khan Yunis Municipality on Wednesday. The spokesman said work carried out by the Palestinians had been stopped and stressed that the area is under Israeli control. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Levy to attend cabinet meeting

Foreign Minister David Levy intends to attend the cabinet meeting today, although no headway was made yesterday in solving the crisis between himself and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, sources close to Levy said.

Levy is demanding the abolition of the inner security cabinet and to be given sole charge of the peace talks with the Palestinians, among other state affairs.

He also is demanding that the settlement will be anchored in a cabinet decision, saying he will not be satisfied with the prime minister's word or a written commitment, as Netanyahu wants. *Michal Yudelman*

Lieberman questioned under caution

Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman was questioned under caution by police for eight hours yesterday about financial irregularities at the Geshet La'aliya organization, which he headed until 1991. Lieberman allegedly received NIS 111,000 from the organization which he never repaid in full.

Lieberman also gave evidence about the Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) case. *Itim*

Hebron leaflet woman charged

News agencies

Tatiana Susskind, 25, was charged yesterday in Jerusalem District Court with offending religious sensibilities, by posting leaflets in Hebron depicting Mohammed as a pig, and endangering life by stoning an Arab car.

She also is charged with supporting a terrorist group, because she had worn the yellow shirt with the clenched fist symbol of the outlawed Kach movement when she put up the leaflets.

Prosecutors asked the court to remand Susskind until the end of the legal proceedings against her, noting that she had gone ahead to stone the Arab car even though the previous day she had been questioned and released for hanging the leaflets. She also has a previ-

ous conviction for fraud, for which she was sentenced to community service that she never carried out.

A hearing on the request for the extended remand is scheduled for Wednesday.

"They don't even let me bring a Torah scroll or prayer book into jail. They don't let me eat."

They do interrogations from morning till night," Susskind told reporters during her court appearance.

The indictment said Susskind hurled a stone at the car of a Palestinian motorist on Saturday, breaking the rear left window - a charge carrying a maximum 20-year sentence. Harming religious sensibilities carries a maximum one-year sentence, while supporting a terror group carries a penalty of up to three years.



A policewoman speaks to Tatiana Susskind in Jerusalem District Court yesterday. (Flash 90)

HEBRON

Continued from Page 1

"You don't think of the other side when your best friend is lying there, screaming for help. It makes you think that just like the child could throw a rock, he could also throw a bomb."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday accused the Palestinian Authority of being responsible for the violence in Hebron and of organizing the riots there.

The government will not accept a situation in which violence continues at the same time as the peace process, Netanyahu warned.

"The Israeli government will not be able to agree to organized street violence, or to a situation in which the PA refrains from acting against this violence. As we made it clear that we won't accept the equation of a terrorism process at the same time as the peace process, thus we won't accept the formula of street violence while we're trying to conduct a peace process," he said.

Netanyahu charged the PA with causing the ferment in Hebron and with failing to stop it on those "one or two" occasions when the PA was not behind it, noting that this was a blatant violation of the Hebron agreement.

"According to the Hebron agreement, they set up special units to act against the rioting mob and

buffer zones, intended as an obstacle to the entrance of rioters, which the Palestinians themselves were to stop. The Hebron agreement says they have to take active action against anyone who acts with violence against the residents of Hebron, and against IDF soldiers. But they're not doing it," Netanyahu said.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat rejected Israeli charges that he was responsible for the violence and told EU peace envoy Miguel Moratinos he is trying to reduce its level and intensity. The Spanish diplomat conferred with Arafat immediately after hearing Netanyahu accuse the PA of instigating the rioting.

"We are encountering clear-cut violations of agreements which have been duly signed, as well as incitement to violence," Netanyahu said. "We are not willing to accept this."

Despite the prime minister's impassioned words, Moratinos refrained from quoting them to Arafat on the grounds that they touched on issues outside the parameters of his EU mandate. Although the Palestinian Police conduct in Hebron was brought up by Moratinos during his conversation with Arafat, it was not discussed in detail, the envoy's spokesman said.

During his session with Moratinos, Netanyahu assailed the PA for sparking a popular uprising. Zeroing in on the escalating

clashes in Hebron, Netanyahu said: "Most of this violence is not spontaneous. It has been initiated by PA officials. And in cases in which it was not, the initiator - the PA - did not step in to stop the clashes. Its police simply stayed on the sidelines and did nothing."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday the PA must act firmly to quash the riots in Hebron, ensure security, and enforce law and order in the city and other regions in the West Bank and Gaza. A similar message has been sent to senior PA officials.

Mordechai spoke at a meeting with US Ambassador Martin Indyk and Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny in his Tel Aviv bureau. The three discussed the situation in Hebron and Gaza and ways of continuing the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

The State Department yesterday called on both Israel and the PA to help end the violence in Hebron, while also sharply denouncing the woman who pasted crude leaflets of Mohammed in the city.

"We encourage Palestinians and Israelis to put aside the violence in Hebron, and I mean the violence on both sides, and to get back to the negotiating table," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters.

"Both Israelis and Palestinians have responsibility for what's happening in producing this violence and observing what's happening on the street. We don't want to point a finger at one of them or the other and say they're more responsible than the other."

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Leaflet reaction reflects slump in relations

Anyone looking for tangible proof of the deteriorating relations between the government and the Palestinian Authority need look no further than the different Palestinian reactions to two acts of Jewish craziness: the Noam Friedman shootings in January, and the leaflet depicting Mohammed as a pig allegedly distributed by Tatiana Susskind in Hebron last week.

There was concern that Friedman's shooting spree, which wounded six Palestinians, would touch off a round of violence. True, some rocks were thrown, and anger was palpable, but the Palestinian Police moved in and quickly squelched the reaction. With the shooting occurring just a week before the IDF's redeployment in Hebron, the Palestinians had much to lose by unrestrained violence.

This week's violence in Hebron, sparked - the Palestinians maintain - by the offensive posters, demonstrates that as far as the peace process is concerned, the Palestinians feel they now have nothing to lose.

Ironically, the newest wave of violence in Hebron followed quickly on the heels of a speech Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai made in the Knesset, commenting on a week of calm in the city.

It is the violence after the calm that convinced Menachem Klein, a researcher on Palestinian affairs, that the derogatory leaflet was indeed the trigger of this round of Hebron violence. Klein is affiliated with the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, and Bar-Ilan University.

According to Klein, the rioting earlier this year over Har Homa never totally subsided. Rather, it rose and fell with the overall climate of Israeli-Palestinian relations. When it seemed as though nothing at all was moving between the two sides, the violence would rise; when it appeared as though some intermediary was having some success, the violence would recede. Susskind's leaflet was the proverbial fuel on the already existing flames.

See REACTION, Page 9

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Undercover troops outsmart rioters

By JON IMMANUEL

Protests in Hebron started later than usual yesterday morning, with teenagers hurling rocks and small children behind them hurling smaller stones from the H-1 Arab area toward soldiers behind gates protecting Beit Hadassah in H-2. But this time the troops outsmarted them.

When the youths approached the gates, undercover soldiers who had joined the protest from the Palestinian Authority side, dressed like the youths but hiding pistols under their shirts, jumped them.

The soldiers, some wearing black masks and having previously thrown a stone or two to gain credibility, marched seven or more youths away for interrogation behind the gates of Shuhadeh Street, which protect the Jewish-populated street.

This was the first time actual contact was made between rioters and troops since the protests began three weeks ago, and demonstrated how the IDF is working both sides of the dividing line in the absence of a Palestinian Police presence.

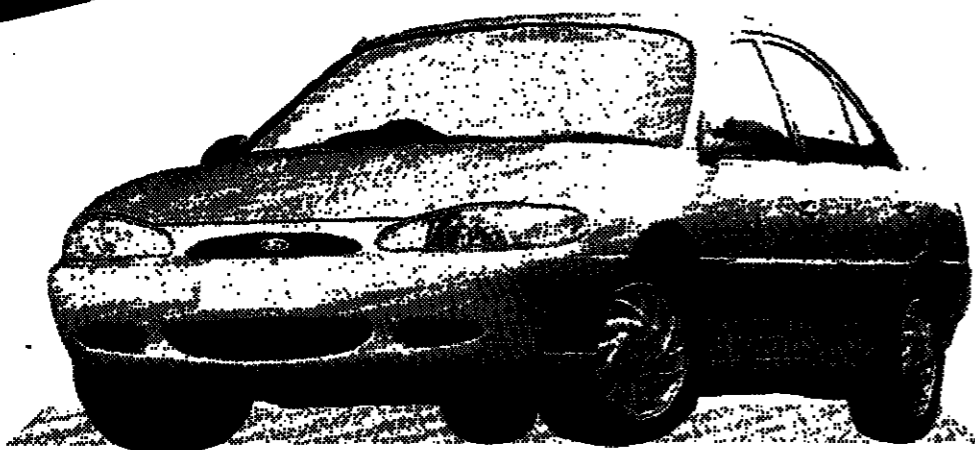
See UNDERCOVER, Page 9

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CORRECTION

Rabbi Vernon Kurtz is president of the United Jewish Appeal Rabbinic Cabinet, and not as reported yesterday.

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Winning cards and numbers

The winning cards yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance drawings were the 8 of spades, 8 of hearts, jack of diamonds and 9 of clubs; and the 10 of spades, king of hearts, 9 of diamonds and queen of clubs. In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 385002 won NIS 1 million, while ticket number 466145 won the car. Tickets 034940, 092628, 723335, 109923, 173418, 637634, 694710, and 519938 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 06153, 65720, 60398, 81823, 00777, 39642, 90955, 20134, 70244, 67308, 27575, 40139, 31433, 96263, 79086, 79802, 74782, 95529, and 63430 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 096, 049, 981, and 828 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 27, 49, 59, and 94 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 39 and 75 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 4 and 7 won NIS 10.

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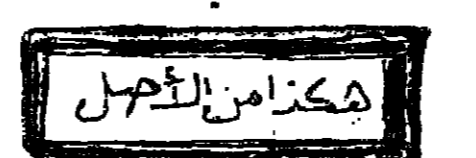
PA officer gets death

By JON IMMANUEL



Herb Keinson Award winner

The Jerusalem Post's Herb Keinson... award winner... for his... work...



Israeli-Arab leaders call on government to oust Hebron Jews

By DAVID RUDGE

Israeli-Arab leaders called on the government yesterday to remove all Jewish residents from Hebron following the distribution there last Saturday of leaflets depicting Mohammed as a pig writing the Koran.

The incident, which has aroused widespread anger among Moslems, was denounced by all participants at an emergency meeting of the Israeli-Arab leadership's monitoring committee in Shfaram in Galilee.

The meeting was later attended by Faisal Hussein and other Orient House officials. Hussein called on Israeli Arabs to join the struggle to retain the Arab character of eastern Jerusalem.

It was Hussein's first official meeting with the monitoring group as whole. He was invited by the forum following recent demonstrations by merchants in eastern Jerusalem to protest against what they described as Israel's unfair taxation policy.

"Hussein was invited to address the meeting so that all the representatives of the Israeli-Arab community could receive specific and comprehensive information about the situation in east Jerusalem," said Abed Inbitawi, director-general of the monitoring committee. The meeting gave its unanimous

support to plans to hold a "shopping festival" in eastern Jerusalem beginning next week. The festival is aimed at supporting local merchants who claim the high taxes, despite their low earnings, are designed to put them out of business and force them out of the city.

The monitoring committee, composed of Arab MKs, council heads, and leading public figures, issued a call to the country's 900,000-strong non-Jewish community to support the merchants by visiting the festival in large numbers.

On the issue of the leaflets distributed in Hebron, it was decided to send a delegation composed of cross section of the Israeli-Arab community to the city.

Monitoring committee chairman, Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, who is also mayor of Shfaram, called for the establishment of an inter-faith body to discuss the issue and counter "racism and fascism" and any form of religious desecration or discrimination.

It was agreed to contact leading representatives of all the main religions in the country to try and establish the proposed new body.

The monitoring committee also denounced the demolition of homes in Arab towns and villages and demanded that more land be added to the municipal jurisdiction of Arab councils to enable expansion and housing development.



After the fire

A fireman cools off after helping to put out a fire at Tel Aviv's Beit Yakhin yesterday afternoon. A pregnant woman and a blind man suffered light injuries from smoke inhalation, but the building was not seriously damaged. It took firefighters about an hour to put out the blaze, which resulted from electrical problems, according to the initial investigation. Fire and Rescue Commissioner Uri Manos said Beit Yakhin had been issued several warnings for fire hazards.

(Text: him; photo: Israel Sun)

IAF hits PFLP base near Beirut

By DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes struck at a base of Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine headquarters south of Beirut last night, in what was seen as a message to the Lebanese government to restrain Hizbullah. The IDF spokesman said the pilots reported hits on the target and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

The air raid, the second on terrorist targets in Lebanon in the space of 24 hours, followed widespread Hizbullah mortar and Katyusha rocket fire at IDF outposts along the northern border early yesterday morning. Several of the shells exploded inside Israeli territory.

Israel has lodged a complaint with the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over the firing, which it said was a blatant breach of the understandings that ended last April's cross-border fighting.

OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine yesterday issued a stern warning to Hizbullah. "We have no intention of escalating the situation," Levine told reporters in the North. "We don't initiate firing at Lebanese villages [north of the zone] and we have no interest in fighting in or around the villages," he said.

"If, however, Hizbullah fires at positions and near our communities and does this from inside the Lebanese villages, it is bringing the war itself into the Lebanese villages." Levine said the IDF and the SLA would retaliate in such cases and this policy would continue.

Military sources said that the Hizbullah fire was controlled and it appeared the organization did not want to escalate the fighting by firing directly at Galilee communities.

Levine said there were internal disputes and some changes of command within Hizbullah and that the organization was somewhat frustrated after suffering losses recently.

He expressed the hope that these developments would not cause Hizbullah to act irrationally and bring about a more "massive war" with the IDF.

The mortar and Katyusha rocket fire at the IDF border positions in the western sector and the Upper Galilee region followed a series of incidents in which at least one Hizbullah gunman and a SLA soldier were killed.

The Hizbullah gunman was killed and several others were believed to have been wounded in a clash with IDF troops west of Maidoun village on the edge of the northeastern sector on Wednesday night. There were no casualties among the soldiers,

who returned safely to their base early yesterday morning.

This brought to six the number of Hizbullah operatives known to have been killed in clashes with the IDF, some in operations north of the zone, in the past week.

IAF warplanes also struck Hizbullah targets in the eastern sector of south Lebanon around Wednesday midnight. The army spokesman said the pilots had reported direct hits on the targets and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Reports from Lebanon said IAF warplanes carried out two separate sorties against targets in the western area of Lebanon's Bekaa valley and later at suspected Hizbullah bases in the Iklim al-Toufah region north of the zone.

The SLA soldier was killed and three others were lightly wounded in a roadside bomb blast in the Jezzine enclave on Wednesday night.

Simultaneously, Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with mortars, anti-tank missiles and light weapons at SLA outposts in the Jezzine region. There were no casualties in the long-range attacks and IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

IDF and SLA troops in the zone and along the northern border are remaining on full alert lest Hizbullah attempt to escalate the fighting.

US denounces anti-Islam flyers

The United States yesterday denounced the posting of leaflets portraying the prophet Mohammed as a pig and said the woman accused of the act was "either sick or evil."

The State Department said the affair had been "given great thought...at the very highest levels of our government. And we condemn the outrageous, crude and sick portrayal of the prophet Mohammed."

"This woman [Fatana Susskind] is either sick or she's evil," State

Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "She and people like her, people who espouse these views, have no place in the modern Middle East, where peace has to be the agreed-upon objective of Israelis and Arabs."

"We're very pleased that she's going to be put on trial by the Israeli government. She deserves to be put on trial for these outrageous attacks on Islam," Burns told a news briefing.

Hillel Kuttler

Lebanese journalist flees

BEIRUT (AP) - A journalist from Lebanon's leading independent newspaper has fled to France to seek political asylum, after he was beaten, his lawyer and the paper said yesterday.

Pierre Atallah, 37, was attacked by three unidentified men near his Beirut residence May 14, the day a military court formally charged him with spying for Israel. At least one of the men carried a pistol.

PA officer gets death

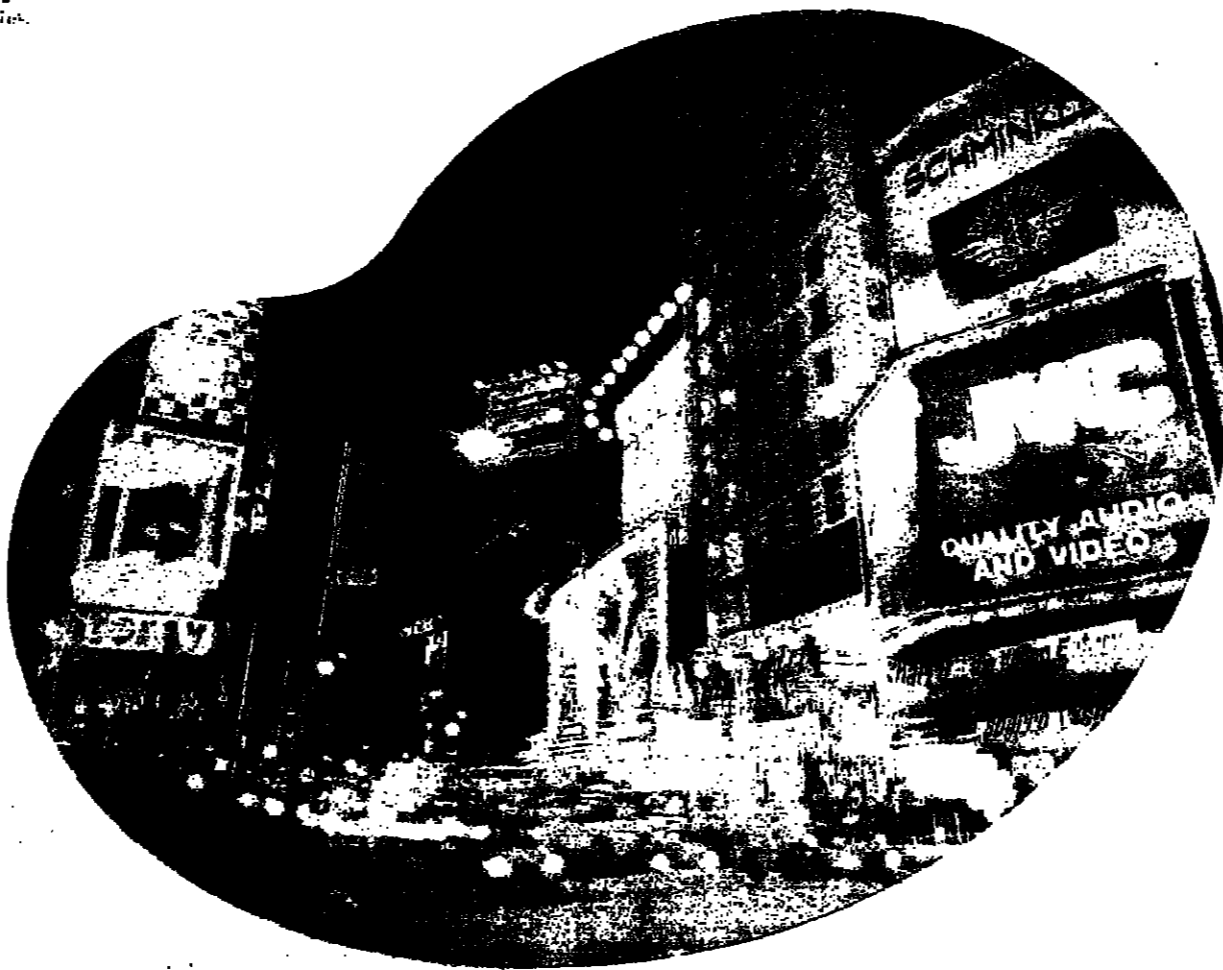
By JON IMMANUEL

A military court in Gaza yesterday condemned to death a senior officer and two other members of Force 17, the personal bodyguard of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, for torturing to death Nasser Radwan, a man they arrested without a warrant.

The court took three days to hear evidence before sentencing Col. Fathi Freihat. Freihat had defended himself by saying his bodyguard, Mohammed Zayyad, had complained to him that Radwan was pursuing his wife and he did not know what to do about it. Freihat said he told Zayyad to arrest Radwan and bring him to Force 17 headquarters, where he would be made to sign a statement that he would stop bothering Zayyad's wife.

The same evening Radwan was arrested two weeks ago, he was beaten so badly that he was taken to hospital brain dead. He was declared dead last week.

Until yesterday, 15 people had been sentenced to death by military courts, but no executions have been carried out. Human rights groups welcomed the trial but opposed the death sentences.



Herb Keinon (Isaac Harari)

Award winner

The Jerusalem Post's Herb Keinon (above) has won second place in this year's American Jewish Press Association's annual awards for commentary.

In addition to writing for the daily paper, Keinon, 37, has a weekly column in the Post's international edition, in which he analyzes the events of the previous week.

Keinon took second place in The Louis Rapoport Award for Excellence in Commentary, for his article "City Without Peace," written in the aftermath of last year's Jerusalem bus bombings.

Louis Rapoport, for whom the award is named, was a former senior editor at the Post, who died in 1991 at the age of 48.

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While Hebron burns

If nothing else, the clashes in Hebron and the Gaza Strip are certainly documented in gruesome detail. The moment in which IDF soldier Lior Cohen was seriously wounded by a pipe bomb in Hebron was captured by TV news cameras, as was the last act of Palestinian stonethrower Mahed Etzer, 17, killed in a clash with the IDF in the Gaza Strip.

The clashes are unfolding like a deadly dance, in which both sides are tightly choreographed. The Palestinians mainly use stones and fire-bombs, with some pipe bombs mixed in. Israeli soldiers mainly use rubber bullets and tear gas, but are increasingly finding it necessary to resort to live fire.

The conventional wisdom holds that the violence is born of the political stalemate, and the bizarre provocation of a leaflet depicting Mohammed as a pig circulated by a Jewish woman now under arrest in Israel. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman, and even the Jewish community of Hebron, quickly and strongly condemned the leaflet, and stated their respect for the Islamic religion.

The unrest, however, is not "caused" by the freezing of talks or by leaflets, however condemnable, unless one considers Palestinian violence to be inevitable. But nowhere is it written that when Palestinians are unhappy, they must be violent. In fact, it is just the opposite that is written and signed into solemn agreements.

When asked why the Palestinian Authority is taking no action to prevent Palestinians from attacking Israeli forces, Palestinian Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub responded, "We are not responsible for defending Israelis from the policies of the Netanyahu government." Actually, Rajoub is required by the Hebron agreement to "... prevent any provocation or friction that may affect the normal life in the city." Though Israeli security officials point out that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is under pressure from radical elements, there is little doubt that his multiple security services have the power to quell the violence at the moment it is no longer in his interest for it to continue.

Behind Arafat's belief that the current violence is indeed in his interest is the widely prevalent automatic defense of Palestinian violence, neatly expressed by Rajoub - Palestinians cannot be blamed, Israeli policies made them do it.

This logic, though it may have tactical advantages for Arafat, is demeaning to Palestinians and deadly for the peace process. It means that every Palestinian commitment to combat violence is followed by an invisible asterisk, and fine print stating "only so long as Israel not only implements Oslo, but fulfills our demands, which go beyond any requirement in the agreement." In the meantime, Palestinians reserve the

right to issue forth a constant stream of incitement to violence and lies about the Jewish people, religion, and history. On official Palestinian Authority broadcasts, via television and Internet, one can hear that the Western Wall has no historic connection to Jews, that it was created as a shrine in order to undermine the foundations of Al-Aksa Mosque, that there is no evidence of a Jewish connection to Israel, and that the stories in the Torah took place primarily in Yemen.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo was quoted recently in a Palestinian newspaper stating, "We are prepared for all the wars, and to sacrifice ourselves, in defending our motherland." The director-general of the Palestinian Health Ministry in Hebron, Mahmoud Batarna, claimed that Israelis had distributed 200 tons of hormone-soaked chewing gum in order to turn Palestinian women into prostitutes.

Palestinian officials, far from apologizing for spreading such rabid and dangerous propaganda, are at the center of its dissemination. A violent Israeli response to such outrages is, rightly, unthinkable. Yet a violent Palestinian response to such provocations, no matter how marginal, is considered inevitable.

Among the most central Palestinian demands in the peace process is that they be treated as equals, with respect. There is no denying that Israeli forces, in their daily contact with Palestinians over the past 30 years, could have done a better job of meeting Israel's security needs without causing unnecessary humiliation and hatred. There is much Israeli sympathy with the Palestinian desire to run their own lives, and even to make their own mistakes.

But mutual respect and understanding cannot be built on a foundation of violence and vicious falsehoods. There are some who would say that it is naive to expect more from the Palestinians. The alternative, however, is to believe that the Palestinians who want real democracy and who are sincerely willing to live peacefully together with Israel in the same land will never hold sway among their people.

Ultimately, most Israelis will shrug off the hateful rhetoric aimed at them; but Palestinians will have to live under the dictatorship whose disrespect for their human rights is part and parcel of its vitriolic hatred of Israel. The lesson should not be lost that reliance upon hatred of an external enemy is the hallmark of dictatorships generally, and particularly in the Middle East.

The Netanyahu government is rightly criticized for dickered over cabinet seats while Hebron burns. But, supporters of the peace process are doing the Palestinian people no favors by not holding their leadership to higher standards of restraint, adherence to agreements, and refraining from offensive denials of Jewish history.



Yet another murderer escapes Palestinian custody

Hong Kong and Israel

ABBA EBAN

It seems a far cry from Hong Kong to Israel, but the two scenarios have a common theme. It tells us that coercive jurisdiction cannot flourish in the modern world. There is no room today for structures that are not based on legitimacy and consent.

On the morning of the Six Day War, Israeli opinion was divided between two contrasting visions of the nation's future.

The first was the understanding that the captured territories could, at most, become valuable counters in an eventual search for agreement.

History is not kind to those who come to the negotiating table with nothing to confer or withhold. Israel seemed to have emerged from that condition into a real negotiating capacity.

In that perspective, Israel's new gains, enhanced by memories of a brilliant military campaign, offered the chance of exchanging the map of military conquest for a new map of peace.

This was firm, concrete realism, reflecting the true movement and impulse of the modern world.

It came upon a scene marked by disintegrating empires which had learned that military conquest is a slender, fleeting basis for any permanent regional order. This vision envisaged the territories in strictly tactical terms.

The second competing vision professed to see a chance of maintaining the military results of the Six Day War as Israel's permanent strategy.

This was, in part, a justified ecstatic reaction to the military triumph. But its main strength derived from biblical, messianic emotions that sprang from ancient memories. It never had any foundation in current power balances. To believe this vision it was necessary to "adapt themselves" to a status markedly inferior to that of the neighboring Israelis.

The Middle East will "adapt itself" to the primacy of Israel as the region's economic and technological leader. Syria will "adapt itself" to a unilateral Israeli definition of the Golan's place in Israel's history.

THE trouble with these formulations is that they do not require Israel to adapt itself to any principle of regional compromise. In this vision, Israel will manage to enforce settlements in an age in which enforced settlements have lost all or most of their traditional power.

The trial of strength between the tactical and the strategic doctrines concerning the Middle East came during the period of Israel's rule over the captured territories.

The Israeli map extending from the Suez Canal to the Golan was seen by many of our citizens as a guaranty of security and stability. It turned out to be nothing of the kind. Israel has never known less security than during the period of the Big Map. The security weakness was illustrated by an intoler-

able price of blood: 650 Israelis fallen in the war of attrition between 1967 and 1970; 700 lost in the superfluous entry into Lebanon in 1982; 2,500 fallen during the protection of Israeli gains in Sinai; and a sharp contraction of Israel's diplomatic map, together with the expansion of our military map, and a debilitating bout of high inflation during the Lebanon war.

Many of these symptoms were overcome by the Oslo agreements and the consequent aftermath of diminished losses. There was no Israeli domestic protest against the evacuation of Israeli forces from Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho and Bethlehem - not even after the withdrawal from Hebron.

But a renewed intifada arising from the continuing closure of the territories and the deadlock in the negotiating process forbids complacency.

The logic of Hong Kong - "one state, two systems" - will be tried and tested in Hong Kong. Its modern counterpart would be two states, Israeli and Palestinian, built around the partition idea which had Israelis dancing in the streets in the dawn of Israel's independence 50 years ago.

Hardly anyone, Israeli or Palestinian, has had an irrepressible urge to celebrate anything in our region since then.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SENSIBLE COMMENTARY

Sir, - May I congratulate your editorial writer responsible for the leader of June 24, "Buying more time." Here we have a calm, well-reasoned and sensible commentary on the tactics of our present prime minister. The term "strong-arm tactics" is exactly right - not only to describe his own tactics, but those of his bully-boy ex-bouncer "Yvet" Lieberman. Surely this shedding of people of integrity such as Dan Meridor cannot be for the good of our country.

Let us hope and pray that someone or something will cause our prime minister to realize that a bulldozer is not really the proper instrument for good government. LEONARD ZURAKOV Netanya.

SONIA PERES'S CONTRIBUTION

Sir, - According to your report of June 27 on Yael Dan's interview with Sarah Netanyahu, the prime minister's wife said: "...Sonia never helped even one miserably child." If, as our sages say, the highest form of charity is to help a man earn a living, then Sonia Peres is giving this form of charity at MICHA Tel Aviv and Central Region. By volunteering to regularly drive a child and his mother to therapy, she is providing the basis for this hearing-impaired child to grow up to be an independent and contributing member of Israeli society.

This is only one of the many ways that Sonia Peres contributes to handicapped children in an unassuming, unpublicized manner. DR. CAROLE D. FROEHLICH, Educational Director, MICHA Tel Aviv and Central Region Tel Aviv.

DEMONIZATION

Sir, - It seems to be a positive thing that our present-day society is becoming more and more accepting of the differences among people. Whether these differences are in ability, race, religion, or a general approach to life, there's a growing sense that the moral way for society to deal with them should not be by stereotyping others and by discriminating against them, but rather by tolerating, understanding and accepting others despite their differences.

In certain segments of present-day Israeli society, however, there seems to be one exception. Apparently there is a group of people who, because of their differences, are not deserving of the moral sensitivity and tolerance that are granted without question to others. Towards this conveniently labeled "group," stereotypes, discrimination and hatred find a seemingly legitimized expression in society in general and in the news media in particular. Specifically, on June 18, you ran a large advertisement with a picture of what appeared to be a religious Jewish man burning an Israeli flag, with the accompanying caption: "stop the haredim," along with a list of complaints against "them." The unabashed vindictiveness and the willingness to portray a large number of innocent people as posting a serious threat to the country, based completely on stereotypes, could only have come from someone with a demented mind.

"Freedom of the press" does not give the right to hate-filled individuals or groups to use it as a forum for the demonization of others. When will the media live up to the standard of objectivity and fairness that they so respect? And when will people live up to the ideals of acceptance, understanding and equality that they so desperately preach? ABBA COHEN Mevasseret Zion.

SANDRO RIBI Ligornetto, Switzerland.

SAME RELIGION

Sir, - Once again I feel compelled to write to you in order to refute the nonsense propounded by one Sam Meyer in your columns on June 20 (Letters, "Another religion").

Are Roman Catholicism, Protestantism and Greek Orthodoxy different religions? No. They are all branches of Christianity. Are Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims of different religions? Again no. They are both branches of Islam.

Thus Orthodoxy, Reform and Conservative are all branches of the same religion, Judaism. PETER SINCLAIR Netanya.

SWITZERLAND'S SIN

Sir, - What can I say as a Swiss citizen, after learning what we did against the Jews during World War II and even before in the course of our history? I can't do anything but bow and laud myself before God and men and ask the Lord and the Jewish people for mercy and forgiveness for the great sins of my nation.

I will never be able to bring back to life the many thousands who tried to enter Switzerland to find a safe haven but were returned to Germany or its allies - and most of them died in the concentration camps. Nor am I able to return what belonged to them to the millions of Jews whose gold entered my nation. The only thing I can do is to admit and confess that my nation has sinned by refusing to save people whose lives were in danger, by looking on without intervening and by profiting from a people's disgrace. These deeds afflict me - even more today, after we all clearly know the facts. I ask forgiveness for the many Swiss who still refuse to admit their responsibility and act accordingly, and who hold antisemitic thoughts in their hearts. I also ask forgiveness for those politicians who refuse to acknowledge the facts and used harsh and offensive words against the Jews. SANDRO RIBI Ligornetto, Switzerland.

In the Lebanese labyrinth

MOSHE ZAK

I didn't come out of the government, nor did it emerge from the inner cabinet. It wasn't even cooked up in the Netanyahu-Levy-Mordechai "kitchen."

I'm talking about Defense Minister Mordechai's reported proposal last week to the French government that it head an international force in south Lebanon, thus relieving the IDF of the burden.

Israel's cabinet could never have made such a request, seeing that such a force - UNIFIL - has been present in Lebanon since 1978, ever since the Litani Operation.

And its contribution to the pacification of the area has been zero. It hasn't been able to eradicate terror any more than it was able to prevent the Lebanon War.

Over the past 19 years, France has lowered its profile in UNIFIL from the 1,300 troops who arrived in October 1978 to the few dozen men currently deployed in security and related duties and based in UNIFIL headquarters in Nakura.

The reality about the French contingent in Lebanon is that it has shrunk with every loss it has suffered - first in 1979 from the PLO, and later in 1986-7 from Hizbullah. At a certain point, France asked that UNIFIL's open-fire restrictions be eased, but the Security Council refused.

The international force's basic mandate remains "to support the government in south Lebanon and its army." In 1989, however, when France tried to help the Lebanese government, then headed by General Aoun, Syria made some threats, and the French warships promptly retreated.

This is the background to the statement by France's new foreign minister, who declared this week that his government's position on the question of security arrangements in south Lebanon had not changed, and emphasized that the "French concept of security arrangements... will be actualized only after the signing of peace agreements

And this week, the Lebanese government declared that it would not proceed toward any agreement with Israel without Syrian consent.

It might be good tactics for Israel to confront every demand, from any quarter, that its troops leave southern Lebanon with a display of willingness to go at once, provided an alternative shield for Israel's north can be found.

Okay, we could say to the French, who maintain such a well-established relationship with Lebanon, are you willing to contribute in deed, and not just in word, so that we Israelis can pull our soldiers back behind the international border?

It could, indeed, be a good diplomatic exercise, an answer to those who demand immediate implementation of Security Council resolution 425, calling on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

But there is another side to the coin, and that is Israel's allies in southern Lebanon, the soldiers of the South Lebanese Army, and their families.

They interpret every public proposal, like the above, as a sign that Israel is quitting southern Lebanon without regard to what will happen

to them. They are demoralized, to say the least, and the SLA's ability to stand up to Hizbullah is consequently undermined.

If the proposal for French "backing," with or without troops, could really create some kind of opening to an agreement between Israel and Lebanon, it might be worth a try.

But with the chances of it succeeding so slim, was it really necessary to strain the nerves of our south Lebanese allies still further?

The people who inhabit southern Lebanon don't know much about the workings of diplomacy. They do not know, for example, that Mordechai's talk with his French counterpart had no connection to Avigdor Kahalani's announcement a few weeks ago (the internal security minister talked about setting up an international force in southern Lebanon, as if one didn't already exist.)

But the south Lebanese are worried by the plethora of proposals they've been hearing lately from Israeli politicians about an immediate IDF withdrawal.

They are depressed by this downpour of declarations, to them a sign of Israel's increasing desire to quit. One could hardly blame them for wondering whether it wouldn't be worthwhile being the first to jump ship.

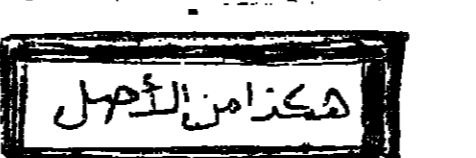
Were that to happen, our soldiers - still stuck in the security zone - would be greatly imperiled. The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

July 6 - July 11, 1947
Dr. Chaim Weizmann appears before UNESCOP (United Nations Committee on Palestine) and urges to sweep away the White Paper. He comes up firmly for Partition as the solution of the Palestine dilemma - an act of surgery to which he had been driven to resort, though he was "not a cruel mother" who liked "cutting her baby in two." David Ben-Gurion presents a case for Jewish self-determination and tells Great Britain and the world at large that Mandatory Government failed to cooperate with the Mandate.

Acce most of Cofuntee's deliberations.
Jewish Agency regrets that UNESCOP decides not to visit the "illegal" immigrants camps set by Great Britain in Cyprus. 11,000 "illegal" Jewish immigrants to Palestine detained by the British at the Xylyotmbou Camp in Cyprus stage a hunger strike against deteriorating conditions.
British plan to increase the camps capacity soon.
Haya Ralberg (17) and Yaffa Avner (18) are arrested in Kadimah House, the residence of UNESCOP's Members to whom they intended to hand over Stern Group pamphlets.
The Palestine High Commissioner confirms death sentences passed on Meir Nakar, Ya'acov Weiss and Avshalom Habib for their part in the

A group of Jewish refugees are detained while trying to cross from Austria to Italy.
Palestine Post is served a contempt of court summons for having published a report claiming that the High Court was prejudiced in the case of "illegal" refugee ships being confiscated by the Palestine Government.
King George VI announces his consent to the engagement of his elder daughter, 21-year-old Princess Elizabeth to Philip Mountbatten, the former Prince of Greece.
The former King Carol of Rumania, marries his long-time mistress Magda Lupescu.
The famous statue of Eros, which was stored away for safety reasons during World War II is reinstated in its traditional place at London's Piccadilly Circus. ALEXANDER ZVIELLI



The final exile of Jews among Jews

Growing up wearing a *kippa* and *tzitzit* in America, you get used to being stared at. And you learn to discern what lies behind the stare - anything from mild curiosity to undisguised hatred.

That is part of Exile. So is being shown - as I was in London's Golders Green last week - the place where two skinheads recently jumped a Jew on the way to *shul* and beat him unconscious. It's always been like that, and worse.

One exile, however, there is no getting used to: the final exile of Jews among Jews described by the Vilna Gaon more than 200 years ago. Religious Jews in Israel today are experiencing that exile.

Sometimes the reminder is an obscene gesture made by a child from a passing school bus. Other times, you can't help laughing.

Last year, I attended a meeting in my parents' apartment building to discuss the proposed installation of a Shabbat elevator. Speaker after speaker rose to express fears that such an elevator would bring *haredim* to the building, and the neighborhood.

Proponents of the elevator countered that *haredim* would not use a Shabbat elevator. But both sides accepted, without question, the undesirability of people like me.

No one even felt the need for a perfunctory smile, a "Nothing personal." Never have I felt so powerful - or so threatening.

The news one reads and hears makes one wonder whether the asylums have been emptied, and the inmates are in charge.

Lev Leviev decides to close his shopping mall on Shabbat so as not to violate his deepest religious principles and profit from work done on the day of rest. In response, Mayor Roni Milo announces that he will not suffer the good citizens of Ramat Aviv to go without their Shabbat cheeseburgers.

And the situation grows more ominous. Last week a *haredi* teenager was grabbed off the street in Jerusalem's Zichron Moshe neighborhood, near Mea Shearim, stuffed into a car, and dumped on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway in the middle of the night, having been stripped

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

of his hat and *kippa*. Another *haredi* teenager was treated at Shaare Zedek hospital after being beaten up by a group of secular youths; a third was attacked on a Jerusalem bus.

NONE of these events was deemed newsworthy by the mainstream press. Yossi Sarid did not call for a special police task force to deal with the "secular *intifada*."

If Jews were threatened with government retaliation for observing Shabbat or beaten up

What it's like to be hated. What it's like to be *haredi*

for wearing religious garb anywhere else in the world, Jewish defense organizations would tumble over one another in decrying new outbreaks of antisemitism.

The few remaining rules of civility in Israel do not apply when it comes to *haredim*. Pious editorial denunciations of the "Stop the *Haredim*" slogan provided no fig leaf for the hatred fomented by the media itself.

Would any Israeli newspaper have accepted a full-page ad that read: "They don't serve in the army. They side with our enemies. Soon they will hold the decisive vote over the fate of the Jewish state. Stop the Arabs?"

Or: "Forty percent aren't Jewish. They bring organized crime and prostitution. Stop the Russians."

Any act by any *haredi* Jew is portrayed as the act of all *haredim*.

Imagine the shock that would greet these headlines: "Secular youths slay cab driver for kicks." "Girl, 14, raped by gang of secular youths." "Secular businessman sells chemical weapons secrets to Iran."

But when the reporting is about the *haredi* community, all journalistic standards of accuracy seem to fly by the wayside.

The two leading Israeli dailies both headlined excrement-throwing *haredim* in their coverage of Shavuot at the Western Wall. Yet

the only excrement thrown existed in the febrile imagination of the Jerusalem police spokesman.

Did it occur to anyone that religious Jews do not generally carry sandwich bags filled with excrement with them on their way to pray?

For two months, the country has been in an uproar over an Israeli flag burned on Lag B'omer by a 14-year-old in Mea Shearim.

But has any paper reported that the photographer in question is under investigation by the Jerusalem police on the grounds that he may have thoughtfully provided the flag? Did it strike any sleuthing reporter as curious that the photographer just happened to be on the scene at the opportune moment?

From the prime minister on down, Israeli politicians have rightfully rushed to condemn a poster ridiculing the Koran posted in Hebron. We are all sensitive to affronts to Islam.

But where was that sensitivity to the pain of religious Jews over Gil Kopatch's Bible buffoonery on national TV? The only response was left-wing politicians seeking to outdo one another in yet more ribald jokes.

Had a group of Jews announced that they were going to pray on the Temple Mount Shavuot morning, Sarid would have had an injunction from the High Court five minutes later, on the grounds that their prayer would likely offend Arab worshippers and provoke a violent reaction.

But no one even attempts to understand how tens of thousands of Orthodox Jews gathered at the Kotel might view the practice of rites that are at complete variance with the millennia-old practice there.

Labeling as enemies of the state those who insist on retaining their identity as Jews is of ancient lineage. Pharaoh justified enslaving us on the grounds that we were potential fifth columnists.

Such attempts to stop us, however, have an equally long record of failure: "As much as they afflicted the [nation] so did it multiply."

The writer is a biographer and contributing editor to the Jewish Observer.



Snub friends, lose friends

DAVID KIMCHE

"God bless Israel," the Ghanaian policeman manning a roadblock on the Lome-Accra Road said when he saw my passport. He added as an afterthought, "I love Israel."

The evening before, I had met with African friends in Abidjan, who sat in rapt attention listening to the epic of the Jewish people's return to Zion.

They had, thankfully, no interest in Har Homa, nor were they bothered in the slightest by the latest infighting in Israel's government.

We were, instead, engrossed in the basics, the fundamentals - how the Jewish people have withstood 2,000 years of dispersion and persecution, and how we have maintained our links with the Land of Israel throughout the years.

It may come as a surprise to many Israelis, but on no other continent is the Bible so well known and so meaningful as it is in Africa. And on no other continent - with the possible exception of America - does Israel have better friends.

The years of Israeli activity in Africa during which Golda Meir designed a policy of cooperation between Israel and the Third World countries are still vividly remembered in Africa. We are still living off the reserve of good will that our contribution in agriculture, youth training, medicine, trade union leadership and other fields created back then.

How refreshing it was for an Israeli to escape the pressure-cooker that is Israel's daily political scene and return to more positive aspects of our past, to view our problems from a distance and compare them with others.

Yet even in Africa, there was no real escape. For one thing, the Africans' reserve of friendship for

us is fast dwindling, for the blasts of criticism levelled against Israel in the world media are felt there too. But also, sadly, we are not doing much to foster and preserve the friendship.

In Ghana, where we were once so active, we promised to open an embassy in Accra if the Ghanaians had opened one in Tel Aviv. The Ghanaians duly opened theirs; we did not.

ARE we so strong internationally that we can afford to snub friends? That is something we should never do, no matter how strong we are.

ARE we so strong economically that we can afford to ignore a bur-

Ghana and other African countries can come up with the cash to open embassies in Tel Aviv, we can surely reciprocate. The benefits accrued from our expanded economic activity would, moreover, far outweigh the costs of maintaining embassies in those countries.

No, our problem is one of attitude, of too much arrogance and not enough humility. We have become too full of our own importance, too lacking in modesty, and not only as regards our relationship with the developing countries.

The mixture of arrogance and amateurism is a deadly one, whether applied to our relations with Africa, the peace process, the media, relations with our Arab neighbors, or the rest of the world.

Africa is just one example. We have to try and preserve our friendships, whether with Ghana or Kenya, Oman or Morocco, the US or Europe.

To do that, however, will need mental adjustment on the government's part, even more than any change in policy.

A little less of the high and mighty - that is what we need.

The writer, a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry, is president of the Israel Council for Foreign Relations.

A new Knesset activism?

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

The political landscape has changed. Politicians, and the rest of us, need a new road map. In today's restructured constitutional environment, a new form of Knesset activism is a real possibility.

Ousted Finance Minister Dan Meridor knew what he was talking about when he stated, after the recent Knesset no-confidence vote, that this was only the beginning.

The political mood in the country has changed because of the erosion of confidence in the prime minister. However, the basic institutional change has occurred because of the changed character of the opposition.

Ehud Barak's assumption of leadership in the Labor Party means that Binyamin Netanyahu no longer has the option of a national unity government. This affects the workings of the system of prime ministerial government itself.

The change in the nature of party conflict is the first consequence of the elimination of the national unity option.

Tzahi Hanegbi's shameful attack on Ehud Barak reduced the competition between the major parties to the level of bootlegging. Barak, unlike Peres, is not a possible partner in a future coalition. He is the leader of the enemy.

The second consequence is the loss of coalition discipline. The prime minister has nowhere else to go.

Netanyahu has hardly had an easy time with his coalition partners up to now. Without the whip of the national unity option, a fundamental change in the relationship between the prime minister and the coalition parties is inevitable.

The crisis with Geshet's David Levy is a case in point. In 1951 there was a "strike" of religious ministers over the matter of religious education in the immigrant camps. The ministers simply refused to attend meetings of the government, while continuing to function in their areas of ministerial responsibility.

The government responded with a decision that nonparticipation of a minister in cabinet meetings would be regarded as an act of resignation.

The "strike" was quickly terminated. Apparently it takes a Labor government to break a strike.

Of course, Netanyahu has the formal power - which didn't exist at the time of the religious ministers' "strike" - to discharge a minister out, using the tactics he used against Dan Meridor, for example.

But Meridor was a minister in the prime minister's party.

Netanyahu wouldn't dare that sort of reprisal raid against a coalition minister.

The change in relations with the opposition and with coalition partners sets the stage for the next phase. This is likely to take on the character of a "Knesset *intifada*." The reluctance to bring on general elections will continue to bring out enough votes to defeat no-confidence motions. However, other weapons are available.

The new law for the direct election of the prime minister provides one that never existed before. That is the

After the recent no-confidence vote, Meridor said, rightly, that it was just the beginning

power of the Knesset to discharge a minister by a vote of 70 Knesset members, on the recommendation of a majority in the Knesset's House Committee. It's a difficult, but not impossible, requirement.

TAKE the most recent no-confidence vote, for example.

Suppose that those who absented themselves from the balloting were prepared to join the opposition. Together with those who held their noses and voted with the government, the required 70 votes could be achieved.

Voting to discharge a minister may prove attractive to those who declare publicly - and those who admit privately - that while they are dissatisfied with the workings of the present government they approve of its general direction and are not prepared to vote for new elections.

A vote to discharge a minister would constitute an itemized vote of no confidence. It would not trigger new elections. But it would certainly send a clear message.

This message is badly needed. For all the fissures in Israel's political map, there is still overwhelming support for basic standards of decency.

The power that the new law gives the Knesset permits a vote for decency in government, without necessarily affecting policy outcomes. It also puts the Knesset back into the action. It puts the control over ministers of government to some degree in the hands

of the parliament.

The removal power is an exception to the general effect of the direct election law, which augmented the authority of the executive, at the expense of the legislature. The Knesset is effectively denied a right to object to the appointment of a minister. There is no parliamentary examination of the qualifications of a nominee, no process of confirmation. A vote not to accept the prime minister's decisions on ministerial appointments is a vote to dissolve the Knesset and to return to the election arena.

Surely the legislature should at least exercise its right to pass judgment on the minister, on the basis of his actions in office. Otherwise, the notion of parliamentary responsibility will have lost all meaning.

When a minister clearly misbehaves, the current practice is to petition the High Court to direct the prime minister to fire the offending minister. This was the procedure in the Bar-On affair, with regard to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

The court rejected the petition, declaring that only an actual criminal indictment of the minister, as in the cases of Aryeh Deri and Rafael Pinhasi, would warrant judicial intervention. Lying was not enough.

Hanegbi's self-satisfied reaction was to aver that he had never claimed that his place was with the angels.

After his Knesset attack on Barak, it may still not be clear just where Hanegbi's place is - but it is surely not as minister of justice.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

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Arrogance mixed with amateurism is deadly, in our relations with Africa, our neighbors, or anyone else

In the Cameroons, where the president hosted both Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, our embassy has been without an ambassador for more than a year.

In another West African country, the cash-strapped government found the budget to open an embassy in Israel; we, however, closed down the embassy we had in that country. And in the Ivory Coast and Senegal, our ambassadors are returning home without anyone yet having been appointed in their place.

One of the most respected presidents in Africa, a Moslem, expressed a desire to visit Israel;

geoning market of more than 600 million people? The United States has begun to take that market very seriously.

With the weakening of France's position in Africa, the Americans are moving into countries which, just a short time ago, were closed to them.

Israel could be doing the same - capturing new markets and expanding its exports on a continent in which economic progress ought not to be confused with isolated cases of chaos such as exists in Sierra Leone, Rwanda and the Congo.

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NATO 'ordered to arrest' Karadzic, Mladic

News agencies

PALE — NATO peacekeepers have been ordered to arrest former President Radovan Karadzic and his former army commander General Ratko Mladic as indicted war criminals, Bosnian Serb television said yesterday.

The report, quoting unidentified Bosnian Serb security sources, said the two men were to be arrested on sight and that US and British military units had been designated to capture them.

There was no immediate comment on the report by international authorities implementing the Bosnian peace agreement.

The television said an arrest order was issued on June 18 after a meeting last month between US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic with whom Karadzic is locked in a power struggle.

Houses occupied by Karadzic and Mladic were under constant aerial and satellite surveillance, it added.

Karadzic and Mladic were indicted during the 1992-95 Bosnian war but no serious effort has been made to arrest them despite repeated pledges by Western powers that they would be put before the UN war crimes court in the Netherlands. Plavsic yesterday meanwhile

ordered the immediate dissolution of the Bosnian Serb parliament to prevent hardliners using their majority to vote for her dismissal.

The dissolution order was read out by a senior aide at the presidency building in the northern town of Banja Luka after Plavsic ignored a claim by hardliners that she was overstepping her constitutional rights.

Hardliners loyal to Karadzic have called a meeting of the parliament today to try to topple Plavsic.

Karadzic aide Momcilo Krajisnik wrote to Plavsic earlier yesterday to say she could not dissolve parliament without the support of its president and Prime Minister Goran Kljickovic, both hardliners opposed to her.

Political sources said it was unlikely the hardline faction which leads the ruling SDS party in the Bosnian Serb republic would heed the dissolution.

Plavsic told reporters she had set September 1 as the date for elections for a new parliament.

US envoy Robert Gelbard earlier yesterday warned the hardliners to calm their disputes with their Plavsic and international peacekeepers.

He told reporters in Belgrade after a meeting with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic that if Karadzic and his allies

sought "confrontation, they will get it... they must, must change their behavior."

If confirmed, the Karadzic arrest report would signal a shift in strategy by the West which has in the past shunned from arresting Karadzic because of the risk of renewed conflict.

Gelbard is in the region to represent the five-nation Contact Group which has underwritten the Bosnian peace agreement and which tacitly sided with Plavsic.

Gelbard did not side explicitly with Plavsic, who was democratically elected last year, but said: "The United States supports the full implementation of the Dayton (peace) agreements and we will support those who will carry out the Dayton agreements."

Western countries fear the crisis between Plavsic and Karadzic, who has kept covert control of Bosnian Serb government, could derail the peace process.

Gelbard said the activities of Karadzic, Krajisnik and Bosnian Serb police chief Dragan Kijac "have been extremely dangerous."

Kijac's police had set up illegal roadblocks and threatened US troops serving with the NATO-led Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia.



NATO peacekeepers have been ordered to arrest former Bosnian Serb army commander Gen. Ratko Mladic (left) and former president Radovan Karadzic, according to Bosnian Serb television. They are shown above at a conference in Pale in August 1994. The report, quoting unidentified Bosnian Serb security sources, said the men were to be arrested on sight and that US and British military units had been designated to capture them. (Reuters)

Clinton readies for NATO summit

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — On the eve of a trip to Europe to help with the birth of an expanded NATO, President Bill Clinton yesterday huddled with national security advisers and mobilized military veterans to support the expansion.

Clinton, who leaves late today for Spain, received a full-scale trip briefing from his advisers at a morning meeting. White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

It was a prelude to an afternoon ceremony in the White House East Room where leaders of 34 US veterans groups were to endorse enlarging the Western alliance by adding new members in former Communist central and eastern Europe.

A senior White House official discounted a *New York Times* report yesterday that France had bowed to Clinton's wish to limit the first round of expansion to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, paving the way for a harmonious NATO summit in Madrid on July 8-9.

France, Germany and Italy have been waging a noisy diplomatic campaign to invite Romania and Slovenia to join NATO in the first round as well.

Asked about the report, the official cautioned that the difference of opinion had not yet been fully resolved. "We have a lot more work to do. We expect this issue will be very much alive and under discussion in Madrid," he said.

Clinton and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will fly first to Majorca to be guests of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia at a Moorish castle. They will go to Madrid on Monday for the two-day summit, which

opens the next day. Clinton planned to visit Poland today and Romania today before going to Denmark for a state visit.

While NATO expansion has stirred little public debate in the United States so far, many members of the foreign policy establishment are against it, including such disparate individuals as former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

They argue that expansion will tend to destabilize Europe by antagonizing Russia and creating envy among former Soviet bloc states that are excluded from the 48-year-old alliance, which was conceived as a bulwark against Moscow.

The Pentagon has estimated expansion will cost US taxpayers \$150 million to \$200 million a year over the next 10 years.

A poll conducted by the Pew Research Foundation indicated the US public is almost evenly split on whether NATO should take in new members.

Forty-three percent favored expansion, while 41 percent wanted the alliance to stay as is.

The survey of 1,206 adults, conducted on April 3-6, found that 14 percent had no opinion on expansion and two percent wanted NATO eliminated.

The poll found substantial support for a larger NATO among the six percent of Americans who follow the issue closely. Sixty-one percent of them favored expansion.

Gunfire disrupts rally in Albania

TIRANA (Reuters) — Gunfire erupted in Tirana yesterday during a march by Albanian monarchists, reportedly killing one person and sowing confusion five days after an election which is set to catapult the Socialists into power.

Supporters of self-proclaimed king Leka I were denouncing the results of a referendum held alongside the election in which voters appeared to oppose reinstating the monarchy.

As they massed around the central election commission still compiling the results of the vote, shooting broke out and at least four hand grenades exploded, sending marchers, bystanders and journalists scattering for cover.

The public prosecutor was quoted by the official ATA news agency as saying one person was killed and one injured.

With results from more than 20

of 115 districts still unknown from Sunday's first round, the European envoy who helped stage the vote, Former Austrian chancellor Franz Vranitzky, said the process was under threat.

Vranitzky, head of an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission overseeing the vote, was due to return to Tirana today. He blamed lack of cooperation from electoral officials "seemingly due to political interference."

"Several members of the Central Election Commission (CEC), apparently under political pressure, have stopped participating in the authorizing process," he said in a statement issued by the OSCE's Vienna headquarters.

But the head of Albania's electoral commission, Kriqaz Kume, denied that officials were absent or under pressure and said every-

thing was being done to complete the count.

"This commission will not be influenced by pressure from any party or anyone else," he told Albanian state television.

Outside the election commission, witnesses saw several people pointing pistols in the air as Leka strode through the crowd, dressed in fatigues and a grey beret. He was carrying two pistols of his own.

The first crack of gunfire sparked at least 10 minutes of shooting, which appeared to be mostly in the air. But it was unclear who was behind the firing. A spokesman in the commission building, which had some of its windows shot out, said no one had been hurt inside.

The monarchists had marched from Skanderbeg Square down Tirana's main boulevard to converge on election headquarters.

They had been shouting slogans against Socialist leader Fatos Nano, whose party looked set for a landslide win in the poll.

President Sali Berisha, who has acknowledged the defeat of his Democratic Party and pledged to step down when the new government takes power, called on all Albanians to remain calm.

"The president calls on Albanian monarchists and Socialists to avoid conflict and await the final results of the referendum with dignity," read a statement from the president's office.

Prime Minister Bashkim Fino suggested the monarchists were being manipulated, but did not say who might be responsible.

He urged supporters of the king "not to incite the Albanian people, not to become a tool of those who have failed, but rather to respect the verdict of the people."

We deeply mourn the passing of our mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother

HANNA SULZBACHER ז"ל

The funeral has already taken place.

Shiva: Beit Barth, 56 Derech Hevron, Jerusalem, and 7 Mapu St., Rehovot, until Tuesday morning.

Children: Max Sulzbacher, Walter Sulzbacher, Leo Sulzbacher, Miriam Geal-Dor

Sister: Hedwig Blaufeld-Yaffe

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Mars lander inbound

PASADENA (Reuters) — With a US spacecraft less than a million miles from an American Independence Day landing on Mars today, scientists speculated that sunsets on the "red planet" might appear blue.

At a briefing just two days before the Pathfinder is scheduled to crash-land on Earth's closest planetary neighbor, the scientists could barely contain their excitement at what they might learn about Mars.

After the Pathfinder — three unfolding steel and graphite units — sets foot on the planet's surface on Friday, a dune-buggy type vehicle called the "Mars Rover" will roll down a ramp to begin a one-week survey, charting the composition and size of Martian rocks, dust and debris.

Peter Smith, who heads the Pathfinder's imaging team, said the sophisticated two-lens camera on the Rover will zoom in on the Martian landscape.

But if it looked to the horizon, he told reporters, it might see a blue sunset. "Think about an Earth sunset. The gas layer scatters the blue light and what we see is red."

New fodder for JFK conspiracy theorists

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thirty-three years ago, Gerald R. Ford took pen in hand and changed — ever so slightly — the Warren Commission's key sentence on the place where a bullet entered John F. Kennedy's body when he was killed in Dallas.

The effect of Ford's change was to strengthen the commission's conclusion that a single bullet passed through Kennedy and severely wounded Texas Gov. John Connally — a crucial element in its finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole gunman.

A small change, said Ford yesterday when it came to light, one intended to clarify meaning, not alter history.

He was a Republican leader in Congress at the time who became president when Richard

Nixon resigned in 1974. He is the sole surviving member of the commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

"My changes had nothing to do with a conspiracy theory," he said in a telephone interview from Beaver Creek, Colo. "My changes were only an attempt to be more precise." But still, his editing was seized upon by members of the conspiracy community, which rejects the commission's conclusion that Oswald acted alone.

"This is the most significant lie in the whole Warren Commission report," said Robert D. Morningstar, a computer systems specialist in New York City who said he has studied the assassination since it occurred and written an Internet book about it.

The effect of Ford's editing, Morningstar

said, was to suggest that a bullet struck Kennedy in the neck, "raising the wound two or three inches. Without that alteration, they could never have hoodwinked the public as to the true number of assassins."

The Warren Commission concluded in 1964 that a single bullet — fired by a "discontented" Oswald — passed through Kennedy's body and wounded his fellow motorcade passenger, Connally, and that a second, fatal bullet, fired from the same place, tore through Kennedy's head.

The assassination of the president occurred Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas; Oswald was arrested that day but was shot and killed two days later as he was being transferred from the city jail to the county jail.

On the twenty-first anniversary of the passing of

Lt. Col. YONATAN NETANYAHU

during Operation Yonatan at Entebbe

a memorial service will be held on

Sunday, July 6, 1997 (1 Tammuz 5757), at 5:30 p.m. at his grave in the Mount Herzl military cemetery, Jerusalem.

A bus from Tel Aviv to Mount Herzl will depart from Sderot Tarsat (between Habimah and the Helena Rubinstein Pavilion) at 4 p.m.

Yoni's family and friends

A year passed since the death of our beloved

YA'ACOV (Jack) NASSER ז"ל

We will meet at his grave for the first annual memorial ceremony on Sunday, July 6, 1997 (1 Tammuz, 5757), at the Or Akiva Cemetery, at 6:00 p.m.

Afternoon and evening prayers will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the family home, 17 Hatamar St., cluster 2, Caesarea.

Those who honor his memory are invited.

The family.

Jimmy Stewart, everyman hero

BEVERLY HILLS (AP) — Jimmy Stewart, the actor who embodied the small-town American values of decency and moral courage both in his life and on the screen, died. The star of *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* was 89.

Stewart died Wednesday at his home in Beverly Hills from a blood clot in his lung. Fighting illness and mourning the death of his wife, he had become something of a recluse toward the end of his life.

Stewart conjured up some of the most memorable performances in cinema history. In more than 75 films, a distinguished military career and exemplary private life, he emerged as a symbol of old-fashioned American principles.

"America lost a national treasure today," President Clinton said. "Jimmy Stewart was a great actor, a gentleman and a patriot. We will always remember his rich career of great performances that spanned several decades and entertained generations of Americans. Like all Americans, Hillary and I will miss him greatly, but his works live on, and for that we can all be grateful."

In most of his roles, Stewart played earnest, sometimes bashful heroes, slow to anger but possessed with bottomless reserves of perseverance. He rarely played the bad guy.

In an age of elegant, drop-dead handsome matinee idols, the lanky Stewart was more the average-looking guy next door.

He was best known for his role as a suicidal businessman who finds redemption in the 1946 movie *It's a Wonderful Life*, one of the most beloved films ever and Stewart's personal favorite.

In *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* in 1939, he was an idealistic young senator who challenges the backroom deals and opportunism on Capitol Hill.

In one of Stewart's most famous lines, he says: "I wouldn't give you two cents for all your fancy rules if behind them they didn't have a little bit of plain, ordinary kindness and a little looking out for the other fella."

Stewart won a best actor Academy Award for 1940's *The Philadelphia Story* and was nominated four other times.

"He was just a great human being. I think Jimmy on the screen was what he was off the screen," said Betty Hutton, who starred with Stewart in 1952's *The Greatest Show on Earth*. "That's him. He doesn't act. He doesn't have to."

Stewart's life reflected a small-town, religious upbringing and sense of responsibility. He was politically conservative. He married only once, for 45 years.

In World War II, he was sent to Europe as a bomber squadron commander, flew 20 combat missions and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

A dutiful son, he often returned to help the family hardware store in Indiana, Pennsylvania, where his best actor Oscar was displayed in the window for 20

years. "This is where I made up my mind about certain things — about the importance of hard

work and community spirit; the value of family, church and God," Stewart said at his 75th birthday party in the small town.



Actor Jimmy Stewart appears with Donna Reed and other cast members in a scene from the 1946 film 'It's a Wonderful Life.' Stewart, 89, died on Wednesday at his Beverly Hills home. (Reuters)

הכזמן האחרון

Foreign Min recent threat latest chapter sulking. Jay

The PA is better the violence in the West Bank, Security chief Mo tells Lamia there are no how long th

The roads in Gaza City are unexpectedly clean. Garbage cans have been put up all over the city center, and although there is no time for collecting, the streets seem to be kept clean. Many in Gaza City are happy to see the roads cleaned up off the beaches. The beaches have become a safe place to spend the day. Men and children are seen playing under the palm trees that have been planted to offer relief from the sun. Women with children can be seen strolling through the public parks at Omar Moukhebe Square. In the late afternoon, the park fills up with families and groups of men who meet for a chat or to drink tea. The traditional water pipe, many of the main streets have been paved. Now work has begun on the roads in Rafah. The Shati camp, only a few kilometers from Gaza City, is a Palestinian neighborhood. The Palestinian Authority spokesman Yasser Arafat has his headquarters in the neighborhood. The camp was set up over the last two years. The private housing projects

NEWS in FOCUS

The man who would be king

Foreign Minister David Levy's recent threat to resign is just the latest chapter in a long history of sulking, Jay Bushinsky writes

Ever there was an Israeli politician with an irremovable chip on his shoulder it would be David Levy. In a sense, he is the political embodiment of Frank Sinatra's all-time hit, "My Way."

a format for reconciliation and agreement. In each of these, the two leaders' principal troubleshooters - director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman and Foreign Ministry political aide Ya'acov Bardugo - tried to set the stage for a viable working arrangement between the two leaders.

He always felt like an outsider, even when he was welcomed into the ranks of the Likud party's precursor, the Herut movement, by its charismatic leader, the late Menachem Begin. Levy admired Begin and emulated him to the point of adopting his powerful style of oratory and high-principled defiance.

LEVY arrived in the Knesset, in 1969, as a grass-roots politician capable of attracting the non-Ashkenazi masses at a time when Begin needed to enhance his longstanding popularity with Israel's Sephardim and the oriental communities.

And it is these characteristics that have shaken Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's coalition government recently. The coalition has been teetering for the past two weeks on Levy's agonizing reappraisal of his status and role as co-architect of foreign policy and coordinator of the Middle East peace process's floundering Palestinian track.

Levy came across as a tough, single-minded individualist beholden to no one, but singularly committed to the seemingly impossible goal of bringing down the Mapai-Alignment-Labor establishment.

His grievances stem from anger and frustration at being ignored, bypassed and left in the dark by Netanyahu and other ministers who have been encroaching on his diplomatic turf. He is annoyed that others have engaged in secret contacts with Palestinian Authority officials or announced their intention to confer with them in public.

It was with this sense of personal vulnerability, of being easily offended and often taken for granted as a Likud party stalwart, that Levy began his series of ego-propelled rebellions. The most renowned confrontation was his pique over being upstaged by former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir as Israel's keynote speaker at the 1991 Madrid Conference on Middle East peace.

Above all, Levy is insisting that Netanyahu's "kitchenette" be abolished.

In similar form, two weeks ago Levy extended his outrage over incumbent prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu's failure to notify him about the clandestine meeting between the Palestinian Authority's deputy leader, Mahmoud Abbas, and his hard-line rival, Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

Underlying this demand is a firm veto on National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's inclusion in this intimate decision-making forum. With Sharon's imminent appointment as finance minister, Levy is evidently wary about Sharon imposing his hard-line views on talks with the PA and providing unstinting support for settlements in the territories.

Levy's biographer, Arieh Avneri, confirms his subject's rugged individualism and tendency to react to alleged discrimination even when it may not really exist.

Levy has discussed these issues at three dramatic one-on-one meetings with Netanyahu, each of which had been billed as

He describes him as harboring a kind of snobbery in reverse, a tendency to look down on all the "professors" who allegedly claim political preeminence (his ally, MK Ruby Rivlin, stresses his disdain for the Likud's "princes" and their contempt for him) and his constant air of rep-



Shamir on Levy

Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir never regarded his deputy premier and foreign minister David Levy as a political rival or ideological antagonist. However, he found it very difficult to work with him, if only because of Levy's irrepressible ambition to win the premiership.

Histadrut, which was a good springboard for Levy. Aridor was well-educated and intelligent. Levy learned a lot from him. He knew how to learn from others.

resenting "the authentic people" who live in development towns like Beit She'an and traditional-

ly voted Likud. While conceding that Levy is an inherently manipulative, almost Machiavellian political animal, he also observed his practice of going into self-

imposed seclusion in times of crisis. "He listens to the advisers who constantly surround him," Avineri said, "but he invariably makes his decisions alone."

Ahimeir believes Levy's propensity for "dovish" positions deterred Shamir, who regarded the conference - whose convening was partly due to his own initiatives - as too much of a risk. "Shamir wrote the text and delivered it," he said, conceding that he was the only prime minister to address the conclave and that the other delegations were headed by foreign ministers.

One of the most dramatic moments in Levy's personal history of uphill battles for recognition and acceptance, ostensibly for his Sephardi peers, and not only for himself, occurred six years ago when he broke with Shamir at the aforementioned confrontation with Shamir over the Madrid Conference.

"Levy zigzags," Ahimeir said. He would do anything to advance his personal interest, he added, but admits that Levy astounded his party colleagues "by succeeding in his role as foreign minister."

His outburst of pained rhetoric was voiced at a rambunctious, secessionist meeting convened at the posh Daniel Hotel in Herzliya Pituah, in 1992, several months after the Madrid Conference. "Should I be ashamed of my origins?" he thundered. "I belong to one ethnic group - the entire nation of Israel. That is my ethnic group."

MAVERICK Likud MK Ruby Rivlin, who says he parted company with Levy three years ago out of loyalty to his life-long "political home" - and not out of disdain for his parliamentary partner - still believes Levy is prime-ministerial timber.

Levy went on to tell of an incident in which one of his most loyal Ashkenazi colleagues, MK Michael Kleiner, was humiliated by anti-Levy Likudniks. "We will not vote for you," Kleiner purportedly was told, "because you back David Levy and you reek with the odor of David Levy." He turned to Kleiner for confirmation of this exchange and the strapping, young politician obliged.

Rivlin could not bring himself to bolt the Likud with Levy and join his upstart Geshar party. But his admiration for him has not waned.

"THEN came the verbal bombshells which could reverberate down to today's impasse: 'I reached my conclusions without emotions,' Levy said. 'I have no alternative after the long way we have gone together in this political movement. I gave it my youth. It is my home. It is not easy for a man to leave a path he has walked half of his lifetime.'"

"I thought he could be the synthesis of a collective leadership as head of the Likud," Rivlin said. "He belongs to the pragmatic school of thought and is close to the people on social issues." Rivlin accuses the party's "princes," the movers and shakers who parents were old-time Zionist Revisionists, direct disciples of Ze'ev Jabotinsky and underground Irgun Zva'i Leumi commanders, of refusing to accept him into their midst.

Then came the ultimate words of separation: "I am resigning from my post as foreign minister of Israel," he announced. And although he never actually resigned from the post, his speech did immense damage to the Likud campaign and is generally believed to have cost the Likud the 1992 elections.

"They always were ambivalent about David Levy," he went on. "Either they praise his deeds or condemn them. But they refused to recognize him for what he is: a genuine statesman, a man who possesses natural intelligence, a graduate of the 'university of life' and a politician who has an innate sense that he is 'the king of the Jews,' that he was born to rule."

Shamir's former bureau chief, Yossi Ahimeir, recalled that Levy never telephoned the then prime minister on his own initiative during the tense period from the Madrid Conference through to the 1992 elections.

Rivlin's praises may indeed reveal Levy's Achilles' heel: his egotism and his inability to reconcile his behavior with the fact that his backers constitute 30 percent of the Likud's voters, but no more. Levy may love himself and expect others to love him too. But it cannot be that way in national politics, certainly not in Israel.

"Shamir always had to phone him," he said. The lack of normal communication between the two inevitably led to misunderstanding and bitterness. Ahimeir contended that the internal fire burning in Levy at the time was kindled by his having been denied his ultimate goal - the premiership, a post he believed he deserved, but which the Likud's kingmakers preferred to give Shamir.

"This is not a love story," Rivlin concluded. "It is more like Isaac Bashevis Singer's story about love being strewn with hatred. It is a game of mutual interest in which there always are at least two sides. I thought his role would be that of a bridge between them, but the bridge can stand only with both sides' support." That may be where David Levy made a mistake that could seal his political fate.

"His ambition always has been his undoing," Ahimeir said. As for the Madrid speech,

Keeping the lid on Gaza

The PA is better able to contain the violence in Gaza than in the West Bank, Gaza Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan tells Lamia Lahoud. But there are no guarantees how long that will last



Mohammed Dahlan (David Rubinger)

The roads in Gaza City are unexpectedly clean. Garbage cans have been put up all over the city center, and although there is no fine for littering, Gazans seem eager to keep their streets clean. Men in orange jackets sweep the streets and pick the garbage up off the beaches.

while others, like the Karameh neighborhood, are joint ventures between the PA and Palestinian businessmen. Karameh residents are mostly Fatah activists, who get a long-term loan from the PA to buy an apartment, a Preventive Security agent explained.

The beaches have become a favorite place to spend free time. Men and children swim, while most women prefer to sit with their friends under the small straw huts that have been erected to offer relief from the sun.

IN SHORT, Gaza City is starting to look well, normal. But Mohammed Dahlan, the head of the Preventive Security Service in Gaza, made it clear that this calm is being maintained at the PA's discretion.

Women with children can be seen strolling through the public park at Omar Moukhtar Square. In the late afternoon, the park fills up with families and groups of men who meet for a chat or to smoke the traditional water pipe.

"If we wanted to, we could explode the Gaza Strip within hours," he said, in an interview this week. But according to Dahlan, the PA is not interested in an explosion right now. Speaking in his office at the new PSS headquarters overlooking the Gaza City beach, Dahlan said an explosion would only serve the Israeli Right and free Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu from his obligation to honor the Oslo Accords.

land dispute at the settlement of Morag and the erection of a memorial to IDF soldier Yehuda Levy at the Morag junction did not get out of hand. Referring to the unrest in Gaza and the recent clashes in Hebron, Dahlan said it was easier for the PA to control the situation in Gaza, since the PA is in full control of the Strip except for the settlements and there are far fewer settlements in Gaza than in the West Bank.

place since the PA took over," he said. Fatah activists from Gaza are backing the PA since most of the leaders are employed by the PA's security services. Fatah will therefore not incite violence against the PA's decision, Dahlan explained. Moreover, Hamas does not seem to be interested in any confrontations at this point, either. "They believe the Netanyahu government will push the Palestinian street to an explosion without their help," he said.

In the West Bank, though, the situation is different. Fatah wants to keep an independent profile from the PA, he said.

A Fatah activist from Hebron who also works for one of the PA security services said newly elected Fatah activists in Hebron are closer to the Palestinian street than the PA and many of them want to push the PA into a violent confrontation with Israel.

He said the people in Hebron are more frustrated than in other areas, because they still have to live side by side with the settlers and the Israeli security measures in the old city are hindering their daily lives.

He said the whole confrontation with Israel is over settlements, and if Israel insists on building new settlements and expanding the old ones, the violence would surely escalate. There were rumors among Fatah activists in Hebron that Yasser Arafat may go to Egypt and allow the situation to deteriorate, the activist said.

Dahlan insists that Arafat does not want the Egyptian mediation efforts to fail and is eager to break the present deadlock in the negotiations. "But Arafat can only do so if Israel makes the first step," he added.

A SENIOR PA official said there are indications that Israel may make the first move to break the deadlock. The PA, he said, would not object to starting talks again if Israel would offer to sign a protocol on the issue of safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or would agree in principle to the construction of a seaport in Gaza and to sit with the PA to discuss the details.

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Settling old scores

The universal values of justice and equality are not merely a larger share of the pie: That's what the founders of Keshet — a new pressure group for Mizrahi (Oriental) Israelis — say they are fighting for. "The mission we have taken upon ourselves is to place the issue of social justice and equality permanently on the agenda of the nation and its leaders," said Shlomo Vazana, a filmmaker, high-school teacher and long-time community activist in Jerusalem's Katamon district. "If Keshet were only an interest group fighting for the particular needs of the Mizrahim, I would not be with them," added Yossi Dahan, 43, a philosophy lecturer at the Open University.

Nevertheless, the fact that Keshet has adopted a broader and less self-centered approach does not mean that many of its leaders are not angry about the injustices from which they and their parents have suffered. "Katamon and neighborhoods like it are [treated like] the garbage of Jerusalem," said Vazana, who was born in Katamon and returned to live there after many years in Tel Aviv. Moshe Karif, owner of a public relations firm located in a posh new building in Ramat Gan, said he remembered how frightened his father was of Ashkenazim. "He used to lower his voice when he sang Arabic songs in the shower so no one would hear him," Karif recalled. "The biggest price my parents paid was in their silence. Even now, they keep telling me to be careful."

Keshet started off as an informal dialogue between a handful of Mizrahi intellectuals and activists who began meeting two years ago. The founders included Dr. Vicki Shiran, a criminologist and educator who teaches at Beit Berl; Professor Yehuda Shenhav, head of the sociology department at Tel Aviv University; Sammy Sheerit, educator and poet; Shosh Gabai, former journalist and communications specialist; Eli Shaya, principal of the Kedma High School in Tel Aviv; Dr. Henrietta Dahan-Calev, a political scientist at Ben-Gurion University; and Karif. "We are all second-generation Mizrahim," said Karif. "We had experience in the fight for social justice and had come to the conclusion that in the current national discourse, salvation will not come from the politicians. We didn't talk out of a feeling of inferiority, because all of us were successful in our own walks of life."

According to Karif, even the Mizrahi politicians cannot help because in order to enter the establishment, they have to shed

Housing rights are at the top of the agenda for Keshet — a new pressure group for the Mizrahi population, Dan Izenberg writes

their ethnic values and culture. "They are like people about to fly on an airplane who must divest themselves of all their personal belongings when they pass through the security check," said Karif. "When Mizrahi politicians enter politics, they divest themselves of their Mizrahi identity."

Veteran activist Shlomo Elbaz briefly hoped that Foreign Minister David Levy's Geshet party might act as an authentic Mizrahi political group. But the moment Levy led Geshet back into the Likud, Keshet broke off all contact with it. The group dis-

Shlomo Elbaz briefly hoped that Foreign Minister David Levy's Geshet party might act as an authentic Mizrahi political group.

cussed not only social disparities, but issues such as attitudes towards religion, the status of women and Palestinians. In March 1996, an expanded group of 40 activists met in Shefayim to widen the discussion. Nine months later, 100 people attended another gathering in which Keshet was officially established.

In order to achieve their aim of reshaping the national dialogue, the leaders of Keshet plan to create a popular, nationwide extra-parliamentary movement which will pressure the politicians into changing the country's values and priorities. Recently, they officially launched their first campaign

— a battle for the redistribution of wealth emanating from the nation's land and housing supply. It's a two-pronged fight.

On the one hand, Keshet is demanding that the public housing holding companies such as Prazot, Amidar and Amigur, which rented hundreds of thousands of apartments to the immigrants, hand over ownership of the units to the original occupants or their descendants.

At the same time, Keshet wants these same have-nots to benefit from the profits which are to be reaped by kibbutzim, moshavim, the government and assorted middlemen as prices soar when land use is changed from agricultural to residential, industrial and commercial purposes.

"We chose to begin our struggle on these issues because the myth of Zionism and the Zionist ethos are embodied in the land," said Karif. The choice is, in itself, symbolic of the fundamental belief among Keshet leaders that most of the problems of the Mizrahi immigrants and their families are inherent in the very essence of the Zionist movement.

In practical terms, the juxtaposition of the two causes — public rental housing in the poorer urban neighborhoods and development towns on the one hand, and extremely valuable land administered by moshavim and kibbutzim on the other — achieves two purposes.

First, it makes people listen. According to Dahan, the analogy of Kibbutz Ramat Rahel (which recently turned a huge profit by selling off formerly agricultural land which will be used for housing) versus Stern Street (where tenants of publicly-owned rental housing face the possibility of eviction) sends a clear and dramatic message.

Secondly, it gives Keshet the opportunity to stress that the Mizrahi immigrants who occupied the border neighborhoods and towns were just as much pioneers and contributed just as much to the security of the state as the mythological Zionist farmer.

"No one ever talked about the immigrants from the Arabic-speaking countries as heroic even though, in fact, they really were," said Vazana. Creating a parallel between what they describe as the agrarian and the urban defenders of the Jewish State is crucial to the thesis of these would-be new Mizrahi leaders. For they are staking their claims to a reorganization of society on the basis of earned right, rather than charity or compensation for past ill-treatment.

See KESHET, Page 10



A squatter ensconced in the Mevasseret Zion absorption center.

(Brian Hendler)

The squatting position

Thugs and criminals — or homeless people? Who are the squatters of Mevasseret Zion? Dan Izenberg explores

Early yesterday morning, after a violent confrontation in which at least 17 people were injured and 20 arrested, police evicted dozens of families who had illegally seized apartments in the Jewish Agency's Mevasseret Zion absorption center. After three weeks in which the authorities had appeared to condone the lawless and intimidating behavior of the squatters, law and order was restored and the trespassers duly punished. A simple story of wrongdoers receiving their just deserts?

A visitor to the Mevasseret Zion absorption center over the past three weeks would have seen a shabby but pastoral-looking neighborhood of modest one- and two-story houses and relatively spacious lawns. Behind the scenes, however, things were not quite so pastoral: having broken into the center, the 120 families squatting in around 100 apartments were battling it out with the police.

Whatever the underlying reasons for their actions, there was no doubt these families had broken the law and seized property that was not theirs.

But precisely whose property was it? Officially, the 52 dunams of land located in the most expensive real-estate area in Israel are owned by the Israel Lands Administration. They were leased to the Jewish Agency in the early 1970s for the building of an absorption center. Five years ago, however, the agency effectively handed over the property to its employees' private pension fund, co-owned by the Jewish Agency and Jewish Agency workers, in order to cover its debt to the fund.

So who stole what from whom? The drama of Mevasseret began three weeks ago, when the men in a group of 350 young couples, the offspring of the original settlers of Mevasseret and Maoz Zion, smashed down the doors of four empty apartments and moved in. By 10 the following morning, since no one had stopped them, the families had occupied 20 units. By the end of the day, they had taken over 80. Until Wednesday, according to one of the squatters, there were 120 families living in 96 units.

Although the takeover undeniably involved violence, there were no serious casualties over the three weeks. The squatters broke down doors, were verbally abusive, threatened police and Jewish Agency guards and intimidated some of the immigrant families living alongside them.

It goes without saying that the squatters are angry people. Over the past 15 years, they have seen Mevasseret transformed from a desolate, impoverished border village to one of the most expensive neighborhoods in the country. Not only has this wealth passed them by, but it has actually displaced them.

"They have transferred us," one man said earlier this week. This outspoken 33-year-old — who would not give his name — has emerged as a hard-core leader of the squatters. "Mevasseret was a desert. They brought the new immigrants here as a human fence against infiltrators from Jordan. People here got killed."

"Then, 20 years ago, our wealthy brothers, the Ashkenazim," he sneered, "started to come and buy our plots of land. Now, it bothers them that we are poor. Rich people can't stand living alongside poverty. Once they had settled in, they wouldn't give us the time of day. They treated us like air."

The takeover of Mevasseret by the rich was the last straw. "We are deprived people who have suffered throughout our lives and who witnessed the suffering of our parents because of their poverty," he said. "How could we get an education? There were 10 of us in the family living in a house of 30 square meters. All our parents wanted was some quiet. I slept in one bed with my sister. Either we slept in shifts, or one of us would go to the other one out of bed so he could sleep. We had to be out of the house all day. And there was no food. We had to steal apricots and peaches from our neighbors' orchards. Sometimes, we were close to being killed when we were caught. And even so, the police insisted on opening criminal files against us."

According to Haim Oz, one of the elected leaders of the group, all the squatters are upright people with low-paying jobs who could not afford to buy or pay the high rents of Mevasseret, but wanted to go on living where they were raised.

There is some truth in what he says. Many of the squatters, in semi- or unskilled jobs, are earning NIS 2,500 to 3,000 a month.

door of the apartment in an attempt to evict the guard.

"These apartments belong to us," they shouted. The squatters are well aware of the fact that the government has distributed land at highly subsidized rates to the members of moshavim and paid huge sums of money to bail out the indebted kibbutzim and moshavim. By contrast, it reneged last year on a promise to allocate cheap land near Mevasseret for the construction of a neighborhood to house the second-generation families.

"The Labor government allocated billions of shekels to bail out the farmers," said Oz. "They could have used the money to solve the problems of our families. Why are we always the ones who are discriminated against and hurt?"

The squatters also said they had taken over apartments which had been empty for at least 10 months and claimed that the Jewish Agency was planning to close down the center and sell off the property for the benefit of its employees.

These claims, though supported by the head of the Mevasseret local council, Eli Moyal, appear to be untrue. Jewish Agency

families were due to have moved into the absorption center in June, and all the empty apartments would have been occupied by the end of August.

The squatters made no secret of the fact that since their arrival three weeks before, they had seized every new apartment that became vacant. No one has been more publicly outraged at this violation of law and order than the Jewish Agency. "What do we have a state for?" asked spokesman Adar. "Why do we have laws? Who is in charge here? Is this a society where those who kick and burn are rewarded? These people are criminals. They should be put in jail."

Adar said that many of the squatters were wealthy. Several of them owned expensive cars; and one person owned the most expensive cellular phone model, worth NIS 7,000. He also accused the squatters of imposing a reign of terror on the immigrants.

"The takeover involves violence and crime," said Adar earlier this week. "There is a hard core of criminals and drug addicts who are capable of anything. The immigrants are scared to death. The squatters are tough. One family prepared petrol bombs and many of them were armed with pistols. They are nasty people, who threaten men, women and children. The place is quiet during the day but you should see it at night. They sit around outside until 2 or 3 in the morning eating sunflower seeds and making noise."

Some of the immigrants con-



Haim Oz, an elected leader of the squatters in Mevasseret. The squatters are upright people who wanted to go on living where they were raised, he says.

(Brian McNamee)

But there are also many unemployed and many with a criminal record. An unidentified man said that about 30 or 40 of the squatters had served time in jail. He himself has spent 10 of his 33 years behind bars, which goes some way to explain his hatred of Ashkenazim, or at least those who represent "the Ashkenazi establishment."

In the middle of the interview, the man ran off to force out a Jewish Agency-hired guard who had been posted in an apartment vacated that day by its immigrant tenants. When police barred his way, he started screaming: "Ashkenazi bastards." Another squatter punched one of the policemen. Others kicked in the

spokesman Eldad Adar said that the absorption center, which caters to large families, fills up each summer before the beginning of the school year. During the year, as the newcomers find their place in Israel, they start moving out. That account was verified by a man, who insists on remaining anonymous, who has lived in the absorption center since October. He pointed to four or five apartments in his immediate vicinity, occupied by squatters, which had recently been vacated by immigrants. "During the past two months, we've had a different good-bye party each week for someone leaving the center."


Adar said almost 60 immigrant

firmly that they were threatened by the squatters. One mother said a local woman had thrown a bottle at her eight-year-old son after he had gotten into a fight with the woman's boy. The feud began when the boy stole her son's bicycle, she said.

Since then, the local woman had threatened both her and her husband. Another man said he had been beaten by a group of squatters when he tried to protect a pregnant woman whom they were forcing out of her apartment.

The immigrants also confirmed that the squatters had stayed up late at night and were noisy.

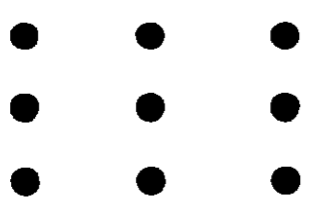
See SQUATTERS, Page 10



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UNDERCOVER
Continued from Page 2

The pipe bomb which wounded two soldiers... was the first... was expected that... blocking an alley... the pipe bomb was... some of those arrested... were stood in a... behind Beit Hades... were placed behind... a street leading... from Beit Hades... could not be seen... they were reported... afterwards and the... rifles were rigged... bullets only, and... they threatened... the day before.

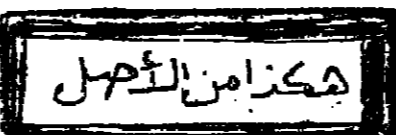
The action followed... Defense Minister... Harichai and Prime... Benjamin Netanyahu... of would take over... of the Palestinian... technically, it would... of the Hebron agreement.

REACTION
Continued from Page 2

The close connection... the climate of relations... level of violence does... nearly men that the... initiated the violence... "It just means they... prevent it," Klein said.

"There is enough... on the ground, that... don't prevent it, you... doing something. This... where inaction is also... Klein said.

Klein said that... why it was possible... in Hebron after the... the government inter... authority with the... Israel's apologies were... to the PA, and the security



War of Words

Who really came out ahead after last Saturday night's controversial "Stop the Haredim" protest in Tel Aviv? Did the angry message from secularists build momentum for their cause, or did it boomerang and actually benefit the haredim it was designed to stop?

Eyal Arad, one of the leading activists in Huka Le'Yisrael (the Public Committee for a Constitution in Israel), which sponsored the rally pronounced the campaign a success.

"For the first time we stood up with political and rhetorical power against the power of the haredim," he said.

"We showed them that the secular public has red lines, and that we will no longer stand their degrading the flag, Zionism, Remembrance Day [for the Fallen of Israel's Wars], and the secular way of life."

Yet Yehuda Meshi-Zahav, a peripatetic organizer of haredi street protests in Jerusalem, said Huka Le'Yisrael's campaign was the best thing that has happened to the haredi cause for a long time: It took them off the defensive and put the secular there instead.

He explained that after recent acts by haredim such as stoning policemen standing at attention for the siren on Remembrance Day, burning the national flag on Lag Ba'omer, and stoning non-Orthodox women praying at the Western Wall on Shavuot, "there was a lot of regret and apologizing in the haredi community. It was in all our newspapers. People were saying we'd gone too far."

"But now people are saying we don't need to ask forgiveness, we have nothing to be embarrassed about, and we should go head-to-head against them," Meshi-Zahav continued.

"When the secular said, 'Stop the Haredim,' we realized that they're not fighting over particular issues, but instead are declaring total war against us. So our attitude is: When you're at war, you act accordingly. This is only going to make our struggle stronger, more extreme. 'Stop the Haredim' was very good for us. It sharpened the conflict."

The style of Huka Le'Yisrael's campaign was a departure for secular activists. It was militant, personal, and encouraged secular anger against the haredim as a whole. Billboards and newspaper ads for the rally showed a haredi burning an Israeli flag. On the eve of the demonstration, ads read: "On Saturday night we will stop the haredim."

Secular activists adopted a strident tone last week. But did it help or hinder their cause? Larry Derfner reports

This tone was denounced as racist and even antisemitic. Yitzhak Mattityahu Tannenbaum, an editor of Agudat Yisrael's newspaper, *Hamodot*, wrote: "The Judeo-Nazi call to 'Stop the Haredim' is a neo-Nazi version of *Mein Kampf* and the Nuremberg Laws." Haredi leaders said the slogan was an incitement to violence.

But it wasn't only the haredim who slammed Huka Le'Yisrael's approach.

The government issued a statement saying the message was "unacceptable propaganda which hurts an entire sector of the population. In these times we need unity and harmony between people, and not divisions which will aggravate our internal disputes."

Even some Meretz MKs, who ordinarily find themselves standing in or near the front lines against the haredim, called the slogan racist. MK Dedi Zucker wrote to Huka Le'Yisrael: "The call to 'Stop the Haredim' - the collective haredi [population] and not their actions or policies - smacks too much of hatred," adding that it was equivalent to saying "Stop the Jews" or "Stop the blacks."

Asked a few days after the rally if he thought the campaign had hurt the battle against religious coercion, Zucker said, "It left a certain stain, it made our cause a little less clean. But we shouldn't exaggerate; if there was any damage, it was minimal."

Leaders of Israel's Reform movement objected to the slogan, as did leaders of Hemdat, a secular activist organization. But within the anti-haredi camp there were also voices who said, in disgust, that the campaign had failed because too many of their erstwhile allies were afraid to be the slightest bit militant, and had been intimidated by the haredim's counterattack.

After the rally, author and journalist Matti Golan wrote in *Yedioth Aharanot*: "I wouldn't be surprised if the leaders of the haredi public are rolling with laughter over what happened to the 'Stop the Haredim' slogan. In their wildest dreams they never could have imagined that their campaign against this slogan... would have reached such heights - and with the generous help, no less, of some of the pioneers and leaders of the fight against religious coercion."

The slogan was obviously aimed at haredi outages, not at haredim as people, Golan wrote, and there was never any danger of incitement because secular activists, unlike many haredim, don't use violence. "Although this was so clear, the campaign against the slogan was successful. Why? Because we have among us a number of professional secularists for whom it is so terribly important to be 'fair-minded,'" he wrote, singling out Zucker.

"This self-abasing kind of secularism aids the haredim not only in attacking the secular public in its well-known fashion, but also denies [the secular public] the right of reply, as lukewarm and harmless as it might be."

Jerusalem city councilman Ornan Yekutieli (Meretz), one of the leading secular activists in the capital, said, "I don't think the rally or the slogan hurt our cause, and maybe even advanced it." He allowed that he would have chosen a different slogan, saying, "I see myself as fighting religious coercion, not the haredim." However, he stressed, "Between saying that a different slogan might have been used, and apologizing so profusely for having used this one - there's a very long distance indeed." There was nothing to apologize for, he insisted, because the secular movement is up against a haredi force that uses tactics immeasurably harsher than words like "Stop the Haredim."

"Do you know the popular slogans I hear in Jerusalem? 'Yekutieli will die.' 'We'll throw you out of Jerusalem,'" he said. "Ten times a week I read in the haredi newspapers that secular Israelis are drug addicts and whores."

Taking up Golan's criticism, Yekutieli said secular activists on the left act like as prissily as "a diplomat's wife" when it comes to taking their case into the public arena. He insisted that the attacks on the "Stop the Haredim" slogan by Meretz MKs Zucker and Ran Cohen represented the opinions of only a small minority of secular Israelis.



"There are no haredim; there's a state." A secular demonstrator holds a poster depicting a haredi burning the flag. (Israel Sm)

According to Eyal Arad, Huka Le'Yisrael's campaign is just beginning. It has three goals: To

conscript yeshiva students into the IDF, to curtail "unjustified" funding for haredim, and to sepa-

rate Israeli politics from religion. The tactics will soon be determined. Asked if the campaign

would use the slogan, "Stop the Haredim," again, Arad replied: "If we feel it is necessary, yes."

UNDERCOVER

Continued from Page 2

The pipe bomb which wounded two soldiers three days ago was the first serious assault on the troops and a stronger IDF reaction was expected than just blocking an alley from where the pipe bomb was thrown.

Some of those arrested yesterday were stood up against a wall behind Beit Hadassah and others were placed behind a jeep blocking a street leading downhill from Beit Hadassah, where they could not be seen, but where they were reportedly beaten.

The rioting collapsed soon afterwards and the soldiers' rifles were rigged to fire rubber bullets only, and not the live bullets they threatened to use the day before.

The action followed warnings from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the IDF would take over policing if the Palestinian Police did not.

Technically, it would be a violation of the Hebron agreement

for the soldiers to enter H-1 to make arrests, but not policing its side is a more serious violation by the PA. According to the Hebron agreement, this leaves Israel - which is "in overall security control" - the right to do the job if Israeli lives are endangered. The pipe bomb incident was such a threat.

Jibril Rajoub, Preventive Security chief and Arafat's top security man in Hebron, said "it is not our job to enforce Netanyahu's foolish policies," and took US Consul-General Edward Abington for a tour of the riot areas on Wednesday.

Merchants in the 50-meter swathe of territory which has become a daily battleground had been hopeful in the morning that they would be allowed to remain open, but as the stones started flying and soldiers took up position behind walls aiming their rifles down the street, they closed.

But merchants outside that area and in the market stalls nearby remained open and were doing a thriving business.

The riots which stopped for

several days last week were fanned anew Saturday by the sacrilegious anti-Moslem leaflets distributed by a woman Kach activist, according to Mordechai. Today, more demonstrations are expected because it is Friday, the Islamic main day of prayer, and the question of the leaflet is likely to be the main topic of local sermons in the mosques.

Despite apologies from government, religious, and military leaders, the general impression among Hebron residents is that some soldiers accompanied the woman as she placed leaflets under merchants' doors.

"I have information that she was accompanied by Israeli soldiers and some of the soldiers transferred the leaflets to the Yaacoubi school, which only soldiers could enter," said Mayor Mustafa Natshe.

Similar charges were made against soldiers after the Ibrahim Mosque massacre by Dr. Baruch Goldstein, another Kach activist, despite Israeli insistence that it was the act of one crazed individual.

personnel were in contact.

This week, however, Prime Minister Netanyahu's apology was directed to Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe, and not PA Chairman Yasser Arafat - a mistake in Klein's eyes.

"It would have been more effective if he would have picked up the phone, and instead of calling Natshe, had called Arafat," Klein said. By not doing so, Netanyahu is giving the impression that Arafat does not exist.

"One of this government's problems, a problem we saw with the Western Wall tunnel, is that the government doesn't show enough sensitivity to the feelings of the other side," he said.

Likud MK Gideon Ezra, former deputy head of the GSS, said that although the Palestinians do not need a

"spark" to initiate violence, the leaflets did add to the intensity of the violence, and to the fact that Hamas elements were involved.

"Three weeks ago Fatah and the PA were responsible for disturbances in Hebron. Hamas did not take part. This time Hamas did take part," Ezra said, attributing this change to the passions the leaflet aroused.

"People need a good reason to go out and face rubber bullets," Ezra said, relating to whether the various reasons given for waves of rioting - the Western Wall tunnel, Har Homa - are genuine, or just excuses. "It is difficult to bring people out to the streets without a good reason," he said.

Tatiana Suskind, who was charged yesterday with posting the leaflets, provided the latest good reason.

GAZA

Continued from Page 7

The PA official said while this does not solve the settlement problem, it would be a sign that Israel is willing to implement the interim agreement and that would create a better atmosphere. He said he expected new developments in the next 10 days, and that security cooperation on all levels may be resumed following some positive gestures.

Dahlan, meanwhile, denied reports that Arafat had agreed to resume security cooperation following his meeting with IDF Brig.-Gen. Herzl Getz on Saturday.

Getz co-chairs the Joint Security Cooperation Committee, which deals with the joint patrols and other daily security matters. On this level, cooperation was never stopped, Dahlan explained. "The PA decided to freeze the security cooperation between the security services with regard to the exchange of information," Dahlan said. "This high-level

security cooperation is an important part of the Oslo accord and we will only renew it when the Israeli government decides to implement the interim agreement."

According to Dahlan, only a pause in settlement construction can break the political deadlock. He believes that this should also mean a pause in the construction at Har Homa, since Har Homa has become a symbol of the conflict over the construction in the territories and east Jerusalem.

Dahlan says Netanyahu wants to meet Arafat to shake off international pressures without furthering the implementation of Oslo. Dahlan said he does not see how Arafat could meet Netanyahu while the bulldozers are digging in Har Homa.

"Anyway, Arafat does not want to meet Netanyahu without knowing that the prime minister has something new to offer," he said. "As long as Arafat refuses to meet Netanyahu, the people do not expect him to deliver anything new. But once the two leaders meet, the Palestinians expect Arafat to come back with results."

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We are looking for siblings of Gabriel Ostrowski who was born in Pleschen, now Poland, and his wife, Johanna nee Holländer, who was born in Samter, now Poland, on August 1, 1883. They had at least one son, Eric.

COHEN-FRESCO
We are looking for relatives of Jaime/Chaim Cohen-Fresco, who was living in Bilbao, Spain in 1922, and in Bayonne, France in 1931. In 1940 he was still registered as living in Bayonne.

AFTALION
We are looking for relatives of Alexander Aftalion, who was born in Greece in around the year 1900, and who subsequently lived in Paris. He may have been related to Alfred Aftalion Banker, who was born in Rouschouk in 1879 and who was deported from Paris to Auschwitz in 1944. He was married to Fredericka Farsanu who was born on August 5, 1886 in Craiova. The family lived in France and Austria and traveled extensively before 1938.

FREYKOR/FREIKOHR (or similar spellings)
We are looking for relatives of Eduard Freykor who was born on August 16, 1892 in Inowroclaw, Poland. His parents were Schmul Abraham Freykor and Eva Freykor nee Kahrshinska. Eduard had two sisters: Lina Freykoir, born in Inowroclaw on May 20, 1889, and Jenny Freykor, born on February 17, 1887.

LITTMANN
We are looking for relatives of the following four brothers: Eugen Littmann, who was born on October 18, 1884 in Freystatt, West Prussia (now Poland), and who lived in Berlin until his deportation. His brother Jacob Littmann was born on October 18, 1875, also in Freystatt. The other brothers were Julius, born on July 3, 1882, and August, born on June 8, 1877. The parents of the four brothers were Solomon Littmann and Lena Levi. A possible cousin was Ragine Pfeiffer nee Jakobohn, who was born on March 30, 1885.

KOHN/PELCZER/FLASCHNER
We are looking for relatives of Markus Kohn, born in Hungary, probably in the 1890s, and died in Germany in 1936. At the time of his death, his wife, Johanna Flaschner, claimed to be his sole heir. They had no children. Johanna Flaschner had a brother, Anton Flaschner, whose daughter, Lilly Klein, lived in Israel. She died without leaving a will and had no children. It is not known whether Anton Flaschner had any other children. We are also looking for relatives of Deizo Pelczer of Budapest who may have been a relative or friend.

KOSSOWSKY
We are looking for relatives of Dr. Mexim Kossowsky, an attorney from Riga who lived in Latvia until 1936. He was married to Kiewka Kossowska nee Porobinowska. He traveled extensively to Germany, France, Poland etc. in the 1920s.

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DRIVE CAREFULLY

The haredim-as-weird genre of journalism

Does Ovadia Yosef really believe women are like donkeys, or are his words misunderstood by modern ears? Herb Keinon reports

Were Martians to land in Israel on Succot, stumble into a synagogue, and watch Jews parading around waving palm branches and an oversized lemon, the sight, to them, would look incredibly odd. Were they to then write about it in the *Martian Times*, it would make "great" copy.

Such is the case sometimes when the secular press covers the haredim.

The flap made this week over a badly chosen metaphor selected by Rabbi Ovadia Yosef is a case in point. The speech, the coverage, the outrage — it has all turned into our own type of ritual.

The ritual goes like this: A major haredi rabbi gives a lecture. Hundreds of people show up, some with tape recorders. A particularly outlandish statement is taken from the two-hour speech, and passed to a journalist who makes sure it runs in a prominent place in the newspaper. The morning radio news-show hosts, righteously indignant about the speech, decide to ask a variety of public officials their reactions to the rabbi's words. Inevitably, someone interviews Shulamit Aloni, who will use the words as further proof of her thesis that haredi Judaism is primitive.

A story is born.

This week, the ritual, like all good rituals, was performed with passion. Yosef was quoted in a four-paragraph news story on the back page of *Ma'ariv* as saying that "Someone who passes between two camels or two donkeys is liable to turn into a donkey afterward. A man should not walk between two women or between two donkeys, or between two camels. Why? Because women do not busy themselves with Torah, and those who walk by them will

become like them. He will forget the Torah. Therefore he must be careful and not walk there."

The story did indeed have all the great elements: Shas, alleged misogyny, haredim, superstition. But was it fair? Is it right to take one sentence out of a halachic lecture and present it as a straight news item? Can halachic concepts be translated directly to the modern, uninitiated ear?

All ritual, the saying goes, is strange to the uninitiated. Is the same true of the language of ritual?

"IT IS no great wisdom to take some minor detail from the fine print of a great tradition out of context, and poke fun at it. You can do that with any culture or civilization," said Rabbi Shmuel Jakobovits, son of the former chief rabbi of the British Commonwealth, and editor of a work in progress called *The Complete Rashi*.

The tragedy, Jakobovits said, "is that this shows just how distant we have come from one another, that each side does not understand where the other one is coming from. I constantly lament the tragedy that people look at religious elements as they would some tribe in Central Africa — with no understanding at all of the mentality, the language, or the way of thinking."

But don't Yosef's words objectively sound crazy?

"You can't ask for an explanation of the detail of the small print if it is not in context. When things are taken together, they make full sense, but one detail without the whole body just doesn't work," he said.

But there is another side to the coin as well, said Rabbi Haim Shine, a lawyer who teaches communications law and a course in



Rabbi Ovadia Yosef — a favorite target of the secular media.

(Isaac Harari)

Halacha and journalism at Bar-Ilan University. "There is a saying that the sages must be careful with their words," Shine said. "And this is applicable also when giving a class in Torah. I expect Torah scholars to take into consideration that there will be people who will

not understand their words in the appropriate manner."

Shine, who describes himself as haredi, said this is even more true in the modern age, where words are so easily and speedily transmittable. "It is important to realize what reality we are living in."

Shine said it would have been possible, and most definitely preferable, for Yosef to have illustrated his point another way, so that it could not have been understood as if he was comparing women with donkeys.

"It is important to be very care-

ful when speaking of others," Shine said. "Just as the haredim were enraged by the slogan for last Saturday night's demonstration ["Stop the Haredim"], and the organizers said the slogan was misunderstood, they [the haredim] also have to be careful when speaking of others."

SENSITIVITY to how one's words will be heard and interpreted seems to be greater among rabbis in the Diaspora, said Rabbi Emanuel Feldman, the editor of *Tradition* magazine. "The Israeli rabbinate, in general, is not as sensitive to the impact of words on the public, as are rabbis abroad," he said. "It's a cultural thing, part of a not-caring-what-the-world-thinks-of-me attitude."

Another reason for the sensitivity abroad, he said, may be because Diaspora rabbis have to be mindful of how non-Jews will hear their words.

Obviously, Feldman said, the source for Yosef's comment about turning into a donkey is definitely myth. It seems equally obvious that Yosef does not literally believe that if you pass between two donkeys, you will become a donkey.

"Aggadah [myth]," he explained, "has 100 faces. When you quote a saying from the sages, it is not necessarily Halacha [law], but often aggadah. There are different layers of meaning to all things. If James Joyce has four layers of meaning, and Shakespeare has eight layers, then why can't aggadah have 100?"

Dr. Tamar El-Or, a lecturer on haredi culture at the Hebrew University's anthropology department, said that in her view there is nothing wrong with the secular press "sitting on the tail of the haredi world," since the haredim have such an influence on policy matters in the country. The question, she said, is one of quality. "The question is what is understood. Often you need a degree of cultural understanding which the journalist just does not have the time for. Instead, he will hear something and then run to tell the boys." The results, she said, are laughable, and do not teach anyone anything about anybody.

Charitably, this is done because of the problems of cross-cultural communications, because one side simply does not understand the manner of speech, customs, and code-words of the other. Less than charitably, this "running to tell the boys" is done maliciously, when one side wants to bring "down to size" the other. In cases like these, El-Or said, "running to tell the boys" is done "to show the true, grotesque face of the other side."

The inclination to want to emphasize the weird and the negative runs both ways, El-Or said. "The haredim think that the secular public is all on drugs, and that everyone has sex with 10 different partners. The secular world looks at the haredim as those who dance around spirits and compare women to donkeys. This is the quality of the information being exchanged. The result is an industry of stereotypes."

The most recent Yosef story, said Gadi Wolfsfeld, head of the Hebrew University's Communications Department, can be considered part of the "haredim-as-weird genre of news reporting." This genre "is well known and accepted," Wolfsfeld said. And there are two reasons why: "One is to sell newspapers, and the second is that it is a reflection of the hostility the secular community feels to the haredi demands to change Israeli society."

The types of stories that reflect the haredim as somehow deviant are a weapon in the haredi-secular conflict, Wolfsfeld said. "As the tensions between secular and the religious rise, this becomes a way for secular press to retaliate to the threats by the religious communities." The haredim, Wolfsfeld said, are not alone in receiving this type of treatment in the press. For instance, Israeli Arabs are "invisible" in the press, except for stories about family-honor killings, crime or their links to terror.

Wolfsfeld does not dismiss out of hand the right of the secular press to quote a few bits from a longer halachic lesson. "The press has a duty to report extremist beliefs that are reprehensible to a modern democratic country." But, he added, "it would also be nice if this were accompanied by an intelligent debate about ritual beliefs."

KESHET

Continued from Page 8

"You have to understand that the residents of the kibbutzim and moshavim did not do more than the residents of the poor neighborhoods and development towns," said Vazana. "They both fulfilled a settlement function. There was no difference between them." Yet they are treated differently. According to the law, the children of those who were originally assigned the rental homes have no legal claims to the property, even if they have lived there all their lives. Once the original occupants die, the company may take over the apartment and sell it as it pleases. Until 1993, the companies offered to sell the homes to the original occupants at subsidized prices. Since then, however, the Housing Ministry and Treasury have ordered them to sell at market rates.

Now, there are plans to privatize the companies altogether.

Today, around 1,500 offspring of original tenants face expulsion from their homes. Vazana spoke bitterly about the "death patrol" that is, employees of the public housing holding companies whose job it is to visit the neighborhoods and check the death notices to find out which apartments have become available.

"The child lived in this home all his life and suddenly he's a squatter," said Karif. "The state puts all its law-enforcing machinery into operation against him."

"We demand that they give the houses to their occupants," said Vazana. "If all the rental money the families paid out had been spent on a mortgage, they would have owned the apartments long ago. Leave them alone. Set them free. Enough is enough. Stop the nonsense. If they don't get the apartments, there will be war."

Contrast this with the state of affairs in the moshavim, where every resident is allocated a house and half a dunam for himself and a house and half a dunam for one

child, said Vazana. A few years ago, the Israel Lands Authority offered more land to the moshav members at 10 to 15% of the market value. The land was theoretically for other children who might want to continue living on the moshav, but the allocation itself was unconditional.

"From the beginning, the land was distributed unevenly," said Dahan.

"What is happening today is that the state is handing out more benefits on the basis of the original inequality, thereby multiplying and expanding the inequality." This is one example of the deliberate perpetuation and broadening of the economic gap, between the haves and have-nots, according to Keshet leaders.

Over the coming years, the state intends to reclaim some of the agricultural land cultivated by kibbutzim and moshavim close to urban centers, and convert it into land for residential, industrial or commercial use. According to a 1995 decision of the Israel Lands

Administration, the kibbutzim and moshavim will be allowed to keep 27 percent of the revenue from the

Keshet is demanding that public housing companies hand over ownership of the units to the original occupants or their descendants.

sale of the land in its new status. The rest will go to the government. According to Keshet, this arrangement is typical of the unfair

distribution of the nation's resources. "The kibbutzim and moshavim received the land to raise tomatoes and chickens," said Karif. "Now they are using it to build shopping malls and fast-food joints." According to Vazana and Dahan, Keshet wants to set aside 20 percent of the money raised in the sale of the land for a fund to be used to improve the infrastructure in the development towns and distressed neighborhoods, and for joint regional ventures with Arab villages and other disadvantaged sectors. This is one example of Keshet's universalistic approach.

Recently, a group of Keshet leaders, including Vazana and Karif, met with the heads of the United Kibbutz Movement (UKM), Zvili Ben-Yoseph and Dubi Helman, to discuss their proposal. The results were disappointing, they said. "We told the kibbutz leaders this was a rare window of opportunity to redress the wrongs of the past. So far, they have not responded."

According to Helman, Keshet is making a mountain out of a mole-

hill. The arrangement whereby kibbutzim will be able to keep 27 percent of the value of the appreciated land applies only to kibbutzim who are in debt to the banks. This provision is just one element in the overall agreement signed by the government, the kibbutz movement and the banks to pay off the debts. Kibbutzim which receive 27 percent of the price of the appreciated land will transfer it directly to the banks, said Helman.

According to Helman, Keshet keeps referring to three kibbutzim which have earned a fortune from land converted from agricultural use. They are exceptions, he said. Two of them — Gil Yam and Ramat Rahel — owned land inside the city limits of Herzliya and Jerusalem. The cities changed the land use and both kibbutzim were able to make a huge profit, though Ramat Rahel, which is in debt, had to pay the money to the banks. The third kibbutz, Shefayim, used land which was designated for commercial rather than agricultural use in accordance with an officially sanc-

tioned planning scheme, to erect large department stores on the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway.

Helman added that ever since the meeting with Keshet, the UKM has been urging the government to allocate 20 percent of the government's profits from the projected sale of the appreciated land for social purposes.

For Keshet, the land issue is only the first on its agenda. Next in line is education.

According to Karif, Israeli society is poised at a crossroads. The rise of Shas has proven that the Mizrahi community will no longer tolerate deprivation and discrimination.

"Israel must decide whether it will embark on the path of social reform that we seek, or ignore our demands and face a haredi revolution. We offer Israeli society an alternative which is based on social conscience and compassion. Society will make a terrible mistake if it chooses to barricade itself in with its wealth rather than share it."

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SQUATTERS

Continued from Page 8

So incensed was the Jewish Agency by the violation of justice and the threat to immigrant absorption posed by the squatters, that they petitioned the High Court of Justice to evict them. Surprisingly, the employees of the Agency joined the petition in their own right.

Does that mean that as individuals, the employees of the Jewish Agency so identify with the work of immigrant absorption and the

protection of law and order that they wanted to make their own stand on these issues?

Hardly. It was self-interest that motivated them.

According to Yona Bezaleti, the head of the workers' committee, "the absorption center belongs to the workers' pension fund. The Jewish Agency owed it money and paid back its debt five years ago by handing over the property to the fund. Since then, the Jewish Agency has been paying an annual rent for the use of the center. If the squatters take it over, some of the pensioners may end up without

an income."

Bezaleti added that the land transfer has not been officially completed. The property has not yet been registered in the name of the pension fund with the government land registrar. The Jerusalem Post asked the Jewish Agency's legal adviser, Aharon Abramovich, to explain the precise legal arrangement between the agency and its employees. Abramovich refused to talk to the Post and referred this reporter to Adar.

Adar said that "the property has not yet been transferred to the pension fund but it is true that there is an intention to do so. We have the right to do anything we want with the property."

But the Jewish Agency does not own the land. It was leased for a nominal fee to the agency by the Israel Lands Administration, according to ILA spokeswoman Hagit Arad. She said the ILA knew nothing of the transfer of the land to the pension fund and added: "We have noted the information you have passed on to us. The subject requires investigation. In principle, the transfer of rights is conditional on the Israel Land Administration's consent". Legally, therefore, the fund had no claim to the center. The transfer was an unofficial, under-the-table deal between a public, non-profit institution and the private individuals who work for it.

In general, the ILA leases land to non-profit organizations working for the public good for a token annual fee. It does not do the same when it comes to private individuals working solely for their own gain. In the case of the Mevasseret Absorption Center, it is safe to



One Mevasseret squatter lights a gas cylinder while another holds what appears to be a hand grenade in a face-off with police early yesterday morning.

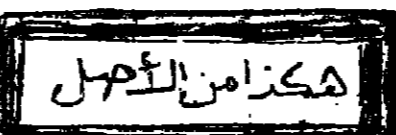
assume that the Jewish Agency has unilaterally transferred the rights to a property worth millions of dollars, for which it was granted a lease at a token price in order to carry out a public task, to private individuals for their own personal gain.

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MIDDLE ISRAEL

The joke's on us



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

The good news is that after years of being the ultimate butt of racist jokes, David Levy this week finally ceased to be one.

The bad news is that once the dust had settled on yet another one of the foreign minister's cyclical rituals of honor, insult and self-pity, it emerged that the old jokes had transformed into a tragedy.

When he first became a minister in 1977, Levy's appointment seemed like political ornamentation, a show of thanks on the part of Menachem Begin for the masses of working-class voters who had rallied behind him.

At that time, some Israelis patronizingly reveled in the stark contrast between Beit She'an's faceless, gardenless, laundry-draped shikunim and the perks which had suddenly fallen in the lap of that Godforsaken town's most famous inhabitant.

In fact, that contrast had in it the ingredients of a remarkable future.

Yes, the elite laughed at the under-educated man whose pre-political career started — and culminated — as a builder on scaffolding in off-the-beaten-

track construction sites. But Levy's Moroccan roots, development-town background, and sharp political sense ultimately took him into Israel's decision making circles.

And yet, at the end of the day, when it came to displaying the kind of courage, conviction and maturity befitting a true leader, Levy repeatedly appeared as a coward who cared for little other than himself.

Levy's lack of guts resulted in repeated failures to jump alone into the turbulent electoral waters which more courageous actors — from Rafael Eitan to Rabbi Ovadia Yosef — had braved, charted and finally crossed. This tendency emerged most markedly in the last Histadrut election, where Levy, after the usual period of agonizing, abandoned the turf to a lightweight called Ya'acov Shami, though the situation was ripe for the kind of upset which was eventually heralded by Haim Ramon.

Then, at the time of the Knesset election, Levy chose to ignore his bad-blood history with Binyamin Netanyahu, and instead took a ride on his nemesis' back, all the way to the Foreign Ministry.

That Netanyahu's much heralded Milton Friedmanite faith was — and remains — an inversion of Levy's tax-and-spend populism was something he cared little about, and was even less will-

ing to discuss.

Apparently, Levy's ideology exists only so long as he stands to gain from it. Had he truly cared for the shape of Israel's economy, he would have heeded Yitzhak Shamir's offer in 1983 to become finance minister and lead the war on hyper-inflation. It was a moment which called for true leadership, and Levy could have seized it. After all, in those very days he challenged Shamir for Menachem Begin's inheritance, claiming nonchalantly that he could lead this country through thick and thin.

However, beset by a largely justified inferiority complex, Levy turned down Shamir's proposal and focused his sights instead on the Foreign Ministry, the political domain which is farthest away from the social decay he so much likes to lament.

That same kind of pseudo-crusading spirit surfaced when in 1990 he joined Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Moda'i in their superhawkish assault on Shamir's willingness to hold a Palestinian election. Had Levy not stood in the way at that point, Israel's discourse with the Palestinians would have evolved along a route much less radical than Oslo's, backed by a broad-based consensus.

But Levy wouldn't allow that government to subsist, since within it he personally felt marginalized. Consequently, he started pontificating to Shamir

about his ostensible abandonment of Jerusalem and surrender to Yasser Arafat's cohorts.

Then, when his efforts to destroy the government bore fruit and the Foreign Ministry he had desperately coveted finally fell into his lap, Levy lost no time veering back to his previous moderate tones.

Once there, Israel's better diplomats gradually learned that Levy seldom read their painstakingly gathered reports, and that his interest in their work was a function of the extent to which it would boost his personal prestige. Which is why he was so deeply offended when Shamir chose not to send him — his very own foreign minister — to the Madrid peace conference.

All that would have been avoided had Levy really been prepared to break with the establishment where, like so many other victims of cultural domination, he has alternately been humiliated and pampered.

Still, despite numerous resignation threats over the past 20 years, Levy never went it alone. When push came to shove, all his Martin Luther King rhetoric — "they said we are apes!" — gave way to an Uncle Tom servility, in the shape of a few arguably satisfied demands for this authority, that title, or those appointments.

Sadly, then, whilst Dan Meridor and Benny Begin pursue their cause through a political desert they have chosen to brave,

and with Ariel Sharon doing diplomacy with Abu Mazen and Yitzhak Mordechai launching a Lebanese move in Paris, Levy goes to the cameras and microphones crying for respect and decrying the addition of a new member in the prime minister's immediate circle.

And so, in these days of awe, when the West Bank and Gaza are simmering — at least partly due to his diplomatic passivity — Levy is occupied with his titles, honors, insults and small-time machinations.

These, like brother Maxim's pervasive presence behind his shoulder and loyal aide Ya'acov Bardugo's pathetically hard-won posting at the national lottery's helm, embody our foreign minister's real agenda: a Levantine obsession with nepotism, favoritism and prestige, at the expense of an efficient handling of real issues.

One can only wonder what more enterprising foreign ministers, like Moshe Dayan or Shimon Peres, would have done in his place these days.

Fortunately, in the unlikely event that he does finally make an independent bid for power, Levy would find out that the real world, not the one he occasionally inhabits, but the one populated by his theoretical constituents, has long been conquered — by Shas.

They at least are true rebels with a real cause.

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM



Parshat Korah

God's earth: an 'equal-opportunity employer'

By SHLOMO RISKIN

"You have gone too far. All the people in the community are holy, and God is with them. Why are you setting yourselves above God's congregation?" (Numbers 16:3)

At first glance, and especially after the entire nation experienced the Divine Revelation at Sinai, Korah's words at the beginning of this week's portion, Korah, sound quite reasonable, democratic and just. Why is it, then, that the Torah sees him as a serpent with two legs who has come to symbolize the anti-Mosaic forces throughout history?

Moreover, Korah's words seem compatible with Torah. Did not Moses himself command the nation: "You shall be holy"? Could not the Korah Defense Committee maintain that if, in fact, every one is equally holy, leadership becomes a mere function of opportunity; affirmative action must become the order of the day. The era of the Old Guard Rule (Moses' family) must come to an end.

Korah's words may seem to contain a glib truth. In reality, however, Korah and Moses represent two different ways of looking at the world. It must be remembered that Moses and Korah speak of holiness in two different tenses: Korah in the present and Moses in the future. When Moses brought down the Torah from Sinai, God placed into the world the possibility of achieving holiness: "You shall become holy" — future tense. "All families of the earth shall be blessed by you" — but only if you live by My word and become a light unto the nations!

snearing at the very possibility of humans achieving holiness.

The 20th century has had more than its share of "we are holy" philosophies. The rage of the Western world has been to free the id from the super-ego; if the id is holy, then everything must be holy. But behind such views of an "anything-goes" holiness, nothing goes. If everything is special, nothing is special.

But the Torah's approach is different — and this difference is emphasized by the aftermath of Korah's charge.

When Moses announces to the rebels the means by which God will determine who is holy to Him, he has Korah and his cohorts bring fire and offer incense. Fire symbolizes the possibility of change, but only after a specific process takes place — by means of heat, the hardest materials may be forced to bend. Incense changes the environment — its sweet-smelling fragrance can remove the rancid odor of death and decay.

The vision of Moses is a vision of the possibility of repair and change — but only after effort and commitment, energy and heat. The rising flames have the ability to extract the fragrance of the incense and soar heavenward. Material objects, humanity, the very world can be changed, elevated, sanctified — but it depends on merit, on activity, on achievement!

Korah's punishment and death fits his crime and philosophy. Korah and his cohorts are swallowed alive by the earth. From the perspective of the grave, all who enter are equal: flesh for the worms, caves for the ants. The earth is the ultimate "equal-opportunity employer."

"I have set before you this day life and death, good and evil, choose life." Your deeds become the cardinal criterion as to whether or not you've achieved holiness; meritocracy, not affirmative action, rules the day!

Korah, on the other hand, seeks "holiness now." By arguing for holiness in the way that he does, Korah is really arguing against holiness.

We need not work for it, or strive to achieve it. We already are! And such an outlook obviates the need for a life of striving within Torah and commandments.

The initial message revolves around the fascinating linguistic connection between tzitzit (symbol of the sanctity of the body) and tzitz, the blossoms on the almond tree. An organic piece of wood can blossom into a fragrant and fruit-bearing tree, but hard work is a prerequisite!

Perhaps this is why the Midrash pictures Korah as questioning Moses on the commandments of tzitzit (is it not absurd, he argues, that a garment which is completely blue would still require fringes with a single blue thread?).

mezuzah (is it not absurd that a home filled with Torah scrolls would still require a parchment on the doorpost?), and tithing of food (a poor widow must give tithes on fruits and vegetables). These three commandments deal with the most basic human needs: clothing, shelter and food.

Moses was teaching that our bodies can become holy, but in order to become so, they must be clothed and modified; our homes can become holy, but only if we labor mightily to let God in; our meals can become expressions of holiness, but only if we share our food with those in need.

The Torah portion's final proof that Aaron is the one chosen by God, and the symbolism which serves as the crowning proof to our thesis, involves the command to write the names of each of the tribe's leaders on 12 staffs, to be placed in the communion tent before the Ark of Testimony. The next day, Aaron's staff, representing the house of Levi, has blossomed, giving forth leaves and almonds. After this, God says to Moses that no one should ever again deny the authority of Aaron's priesthood.

The initial message revolves around the fascinating linguistic connection between tzitzit (symbol of the sanctity of the body) and tzitz, the blossoms on the almond tree. An organic piece of wood can blossom into a fragrant and fruit-bearing tree, but hard work is a prerequisite!

The blossoming of the almonds reminds us that although, when it comes to death, the earth takes all in equally, when it comes to life, the earth sends forth its bounty in accordance with very real distinctions.

The sight of the almond blossoms fills us with hope, for the almond is a harbinger of life. The Hebrew word for almond (shaked) means diligence. And everyone knows that agricultural accomplishment requires a partnership between God-given potential and human effort.

Holiness can be achieved, not by right but by merit!

In sneering at these commandments, Korah was effectively

Shabbat Shalom

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

Israel has been called, variously, America's "cheapest/permanent/unsinkable aircraft carrier." This was an American politician's metaphor for the strategic value many Americans assigned to Israel's strategic value, first in the hot days of the Cold War between the former Soviet Union and the West, and more recently in what many perceive as the threat of bellicose Islamism to the West.

Many people, especially Israel's enemies, assert that it is the allegedly powerful Zionist lobby in Washington — what Arab and other antisemites have referred to as a mighty arm of the ZOG/Zionist Occupation Government — that is primarily responsible for the allegedly monumental aid the US has extended to Israel.

Some people, less hostile but perhaps more naive, add to the lobbying factor Americans' spiritual and emotional affinities to the Bible and post-Holocaust sympathy for the Jews.

But all the lobbying in the world alone would not have moved Richard Nixon to become the first US president to extend significant aid to Israel, during the Yom Kippur War. It is most unlikely that Richard Nixon, of all people, was moved by any special affinity to the people he called "kikes."

Scholarly studies have shown that it is America's appreciation of Israel's strategic value rather than the above factors that has been — at least was — the primary spur to US aid to Israel (a small part of that country's monumental foreign-aid assistance outlay, and even of US aid to our poten-

tially mortal enemies).

Yet this very element is missing from the report of the Council on Foreign Relations' independent task force on "US Middle East Policy and the Peace Process," issued June 16.

In the section on American interests in our region, the report makes no reference whatever to Israel's being of any strategic value. It says: "...America's interest in a secure and peaceful Israel... derives from many factors" — all of them altruistic or emotional.

The first factor the report mentions is "...historical ties, dating back to America's early support for the creation of the state in 1948..."

In fact, if Israel's birth in 1948 had depended solely on American support, the Jewish state would not have been reborn then.

And, if our survival then had depended on American help, we'd have died a-borning — notwithstanding president Harry Truman's recognition the day after the Proclamation of Independence. It's all in the history books. The State and Defense Departments tried very hard to prevent Israel's birth and then its growth — despite that powerful American Bible-based pro-Zionist orientation dating back nearly two centuries.

The report goes on to credit "shared Judeo-Christian religious sensibilities, and common democratic values."

The first part of this partnership has been undermined somewhat lately by the enthusiastic support of many Jews for "gay rights"; "freedom of choice" — i.e. "abortion rights"; the stripping of the American public square of all religious elements; and the like.

The report adds, correctly: "Israel enjoys the strong and emotional support of a large segment of the American population. The base of this support is broader based than the Jewish community..."

What does the omission of the strategic element imply?

Dr. Aaron Lerner, director of IMRA/Independent Media Review & Analysis, discussed the report with Dr. Henry Siegman, a senior fellow at the Council, director of its US/Middle East Project and coordinator of the report, and former executive director of the Synagogue Council of America and the American Jewish Congress.

Lerner asked Siegman about that omission. Siegman replied: "There were internal differences over the issue, so the collective decision was to emphasize those aspects that all members of the task force agreed to."

Against this truncated version of history, and of America's interest in Israel, the report juxtaposes Arab oil. Indeed, the section headed "Support for a Secure Israel" opens as follows:

"Just as America's interest in the flow of oil will endure for the foreseeable future, so too will America's interest in a secure and peaceful Israel" — but only for the reasons mentioned.

The report does not indicate that those subscribing to it consider the spiritual and emotional elements it does mention to be of any compelling pragmatic value if a crunch should come between Israel and its foes.

THE REPORT calls for a new Declaration of Principles to supersede the DOP, signed by then-foreign minister Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat's deputy, Mahmoud Abbas ("Abu Mazen") at the White House on September 13, 1993.

Here are some major features of the proposed DOP:

"Final status of [the Palestinians'] territories will be statehood in Gaza and most of the West Bank... coupled with assurance to Israel that the Palestinian state will be demilitarized."

"Palestinians will not have the right to forge military alliances with hostile states."

Can you see the Palestinian National

Authority accepting these limitations on their prerogatives?

The report contains other proposals, which I have not mentioned, that the PNA is also sure to reject.

Indeed, Siegman also told Lerner that the "report has good news and bad news for Arafat. The good news is that it supports a Palestinian state subject to certain limits. The bad news is that America won't accept Arafat's maximalist demands."

Neither will Israel, of course.

The proposed DOP also provides for: "Maximal territorial continuity for the Palestinian state on the majority of West Bank and Gaza territories, while holding to a minimum the relocation of Israeli populations now living there and giving Israel secure and recognized boundaries."

The latter clause stipulates: "Since... recent studies have confirmed that 80 percent of Israeli settlers reside on 10 percent of West Bank territories, mostly along the 1967 Green Line, this principle can be met."

Can you see any Israeli government agreeing to return to essentially the June 4, 1967, lines?

Even that staunch advocate of "territories for peace," former foreign minister Abba Eban, has said that "June map... has something for us of a memory of Auschwitz... a situation which will never be repeated in history" (interview with the German weekly Der Spiegel, November 5, 1969).

The report criticizes Israel's failures regarding implementation of Oslo, but overlooks the PNA's gross violations.

Seventeen members of the 21-member task force approved the report, as did three experts who addressed the group.

(Thanks to Dr. Lerner, who supplied me with a copy of the report together with his pungent comments.)

E-mail comments to: moshe@jpost.co.il. Please include home address.

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Whose claim is it anyway?

Gregory Krupnikov of Latvia is frustrated. And he's not alone. Across Europe, Jewish community leaders have been annoyed and often antagonized by the tactics and the composition of the World Jewish Restitution Organization - from which they have been excluded.

In the last week, they have made a unified bid to join the WJRO, which has been negotiating with European governments for five years for the restitution of Jewish property.

The move, under the auspices of the European Council of Jewish Communities, was publicly acknowledged this week in Strasbourg, where a conference on strengthening Jewish life in Europe became the latest forum for venting spleen about restitution.

The furor was not directed at the governments of Central and Eastern Europe, who are responsible for the snail's pace in the return of the Jewish property that was confiscated by the Nazis, then nationalized by the communists.

Instead, it was directed at the nine-member WJRO, which does not include representatives from Europe.

Widespread tensions on restitution between the WJRO and the European communities dramatically surfaced last November at a WJRO meeting in Oslo.

These tensions again were apparent at the WJRO meeting last month in Jerusalem, when 19 leaders of the Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union con-

tended that international Jewish organizations were neglecting them.

Much of that friction was evident yet again at the Strasbourg conference.

There, Krupnikov - along with representatives from France, Poland and Switzerland - appealed, in tones laden with angst and anger, for international Jewry to respect the concerns and acknowledge the legitimacy of the local communities.

Despite the apparent unified European position on membership in the WJRO, however, the discussions in Strasbourg on restitution showed a decidedly "nationalistic" bent. The Europeans want a common seat on the WJRO, but would pursue their own interests.

In a biting statement read to the conference, Theo Klein of the CRIF, the association of French Jews, assailed the "ignorance and hutzpa" of American Jews and Israelis "who scream so loudly" for restitution.

Neither the Jewish Agency nor American Jews have a mandate to interfere in a nation's restitution issues, he said in his statement. Instead, each Jewish community is responsible for dealing with the issues in its own state.

Stanislaw Krajewski of Warsaw said it had been "painful" for Polish Jews last month when Naphtali Lavie of the WJRO said in Jerusalem that the organization would work against the admission of Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic into NATO until those states "behaved" properly regard-

European Jewish communities faced off with the World Jewish Restitution Organization in Strasbourg this week. The issue: stolen Jewish property. Marilyn Henry reports

ing property restitution.

The Jewish communities in these three states have come out in support of their nations.

"It is on our shoulders that the legacy of the [Polish] Jewish community falls," Krajewski said, asserting the role of the Jewish community in Poland to deal with restitution in that country. However, associations of former Polish Jews assert that the current community in Poland is too small to represent the claims or be the heir of the pre-war Jewish population.

THE EUROPEAN Jewish communities, in theory, already participate in restitution talks as the local partners of the WJRO. However, numerous communities charged, in the words of one participant, that the WJRO "goes over our heads and behind our backs" in dealing with the governments. Rather than cooperating with the local communities, the WJRO often is in conflict with them, said Andrew Baker, head of the Office of European Affairs of the American Jewish Committee.

Israel Singer, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress and

a key figure in the WJRO, told the Strasbourg conference that local communities had been represented in every WJRO contact with the

"Neither the Jewish Agency nor American Jews have a mandate to interfere in a nation's restitution issues."

—French Jewry's Theo Klein

He also said that the communities should indicate "where the red line is," implying that the WJRO would not cross that threshold.

The European communities did not seem interested in the offer. Instead, said Krupnikov, the co-chair of the Council of Jewish

Some observers, however, have suggested that the European Council could take the seat now assigned to the WJRO. They note that, because the WJRO is dependent on the Jewish Agency, giving a seat to the WJRO effectively gives the Jewish Agency two votes in the WJRO.

Turning over the WJRO slot to the European Council also could give the council an immediate entry to the evolving Swiss humanitarian fund for needy Jewish and non-Jewish Holocaust survivors. That fund has an advisory council of 18 members. The nine "Jewish" seats on that council are assigned to the members of the WJRO.

The European Council, representing Jewish organizations in 35 states, is the only energetic and functioning trans-European agency. Its primary mission is to develop lay and professional communal leaders.

Officials of the council appeared unusually reticent about restitution. They stressed in interviews that they wanted to provide "management" expertise and to avoid a "political" role in the increasingly nasty restitution battles.

RESTITUTION loomed large at the Strasbourg conference, which was sponsored by the European Council, the London-based Institute for Jewish Policy

Research, the American Jewish Committee, the Joint Distribution Committee and the French Fonds Social Juif Unifié. The conference was a follow-up to a meeting held two years ago in Prague to plan for the future of European Jewry.

The gumption of the Eastern Europeans on restitution seemed to be one of the numerous indications in Strasbourg that there has been a sea change in the Jewish communities in the former Eastern Bloc.

Since 1989, with the fall of the Berlin Wall, the demise of the Soviet Union, and signs of a revival of Jewish life and the development of a sophisticated Jewish leadership in Eastern Europe, the Jewish world can no longer speak of "captive Jews," participants noted.

Nonetheless, not all have accepted that change, said Baker. "There are some in the West who still see the Eastern Europeans as Jews to be 'rescued' - from themselves or from their naive, rather than from totalitarian governments," he said.

"It is time to recognize that they are no longer objects - not objects for rescue, nor for aliyah, nor for fund-raising," Baker said. "They ought to be partners in this common enterprise of strengthening Jewish life in Europe and throughout the world."

SRULIK by DOSH

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Strange-sailor has come back to dance (5)
- Sees how the church is divided (8)
- Prisoner experienced defeat (8)
- Finish letters, perhaps, for waymarker (8)
- One needing a lift from the gym (7)
- In stronghold, captive man who's spilling the beans (9)
- Athletics race so slippery, but there's no danger (3,5,2,5)
- Girl said to be offering reservation (9)
- Periodically, they're in charge (7)

DOWN

- Go to fish, using toll road (8)
- Unattractive leading character ruined another one (8)
- War-time port children danced round (8)
- Explosive substance mistakenly taken as inert (5)
- Stagger to bed in worst possible condition (4,6)
- Chap with a little wood from swamp tree (8)
- A maxim about soldiers and Cupid (8)
- Presumably not working clothes? (4)
- Free kick in embarrassing position (6)
- Reason to upset foreign lady (6)
- Attempt to find house in street (4)
- To break the law is popular over the border (8)
- Insolence over criticism of cosmetic (8)
- I was sixty a long time ago (10)
- Polite Scotsman, but he's not serving (8)
- Interpreter of power symbol (8)
- Cylinder of parchment, say, with list of names (6)
- Albino's confession may transfer (8)
- Cut down to size? (4)
- Simple point, but say in complicated way (4)

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L Y T R N U L O
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ACROSS: 1 Misses, 4 Hippy, 8 Thong, 9 Petella, 10 Insight, 11 Fall, 12 Era, 14 Iron, 15 Ease, 18 Gem, 21 Oast, 25 Abolish, 25 Flavour, 26 Usher, 27 Ripen, 28 Hearth.
DOWN: 1 Metric, 2 Sponsor, 3 Engaging, 4 Hate, 5 Polka, 6 Yearly, 7 Epile, 13 Resolute, 16 Slither, 17 Colter, 19 Merry, 20 Church, 22 Sharp, 24 Toru.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Money (4)
- Removing fleeces (8)
- Spiced whisky (5)
- Enormous (7)
- Cuddle (3)
- Exuberant (9)
- Burning (6)
- Bequest (6)
- Loathe (9)
- Sharp bark (3)
- Obvious (7)
- Extort (5)
- Formal record (8)
- Reputable (4)

DOWN

- Lay hold of (5)
- Unhappy (3)
- Imposter (6)
- Acquit (7)
- Travel plan (9)
- Very much (7)
- Water-barrier (4)
- Riding at speed (9)
- Non-professional (7)
- Girls (7)
- Cloak (6)
- Large pitcher (4)
- Small minded (5)
- Unreturnable service (3)

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HIGH

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Edusoft selected for

Finjan makes Fortune

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establishes R&D ce

Rada receives \$1.5m.

Sotex expected to post

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, July 4, 1997

HIGH TECH

in brief

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Aladdin and Wave sign \$900,000 deal
Aladdin Knowledge Systems Ltd. of Tel Aviv and Wave Systems Corp. of Massachusetts recently signed an agreement whereby Aladdin, a supplier of information security solutions for software developers and software users, will provide a license for its technology to Wave. The value of the deal is \$900,000.
In addition, Aladdin purchased 500,000 shares of Wave's common stock and warrants to purchase up to 15% of Wave's outstanding common stock.

Edusoft selected for European consortium
Edusoft was selected to participate in a consortium that will develop a laboratory network to teach science over the Internet. The consortium, which will invest \$5m. in the project, consists of German, French and Italian telecom companies, the Open University of England and the universities of Athens and Milan.

Finjan makes Fortune's 'cool company' list
Fortune magazine has selected Finjan Software for its annual list of the 25 hottest high-tech companies. Finjan's software shields computer programs embedded in Java code (a flexible, but not fool-proof programming language) from hackers who can break through the code and disrupt computer networks. Shlomo Touboul, who had previously sold his network-management company to Intel for \$20m., founded Finjan in 1996.

Galileo to go public
Galileo Technology Ltd., a Karmiel-based maker of computer network equipment, filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission to sell 2.75 million common shares in an initial public offering on the Nasdaq stock exchange. The company sells its equipment to such companies as Bay Networks Inc. and Cisco Systems Inc.

ISD establishes R&D center
Information Storage Devices, a world leader in recording and audio chips, recently opened a research and development center in Israel. In the first stage, ISD acquired National Semiconductor's Compact-SPEECH production line for \$5m.

Rada receives \$1.5m. contract from IAF
The Israeli Air Force has awarded Rada Electronic Industries Ltd. of Herzliya a \$1.5m. contract for its automatic test equipment and in-flight computers. The IAF will use the equipment in its fleet of F-15 aircraft. The deal brings Rada's total business with the IAF up to \$6.5m.

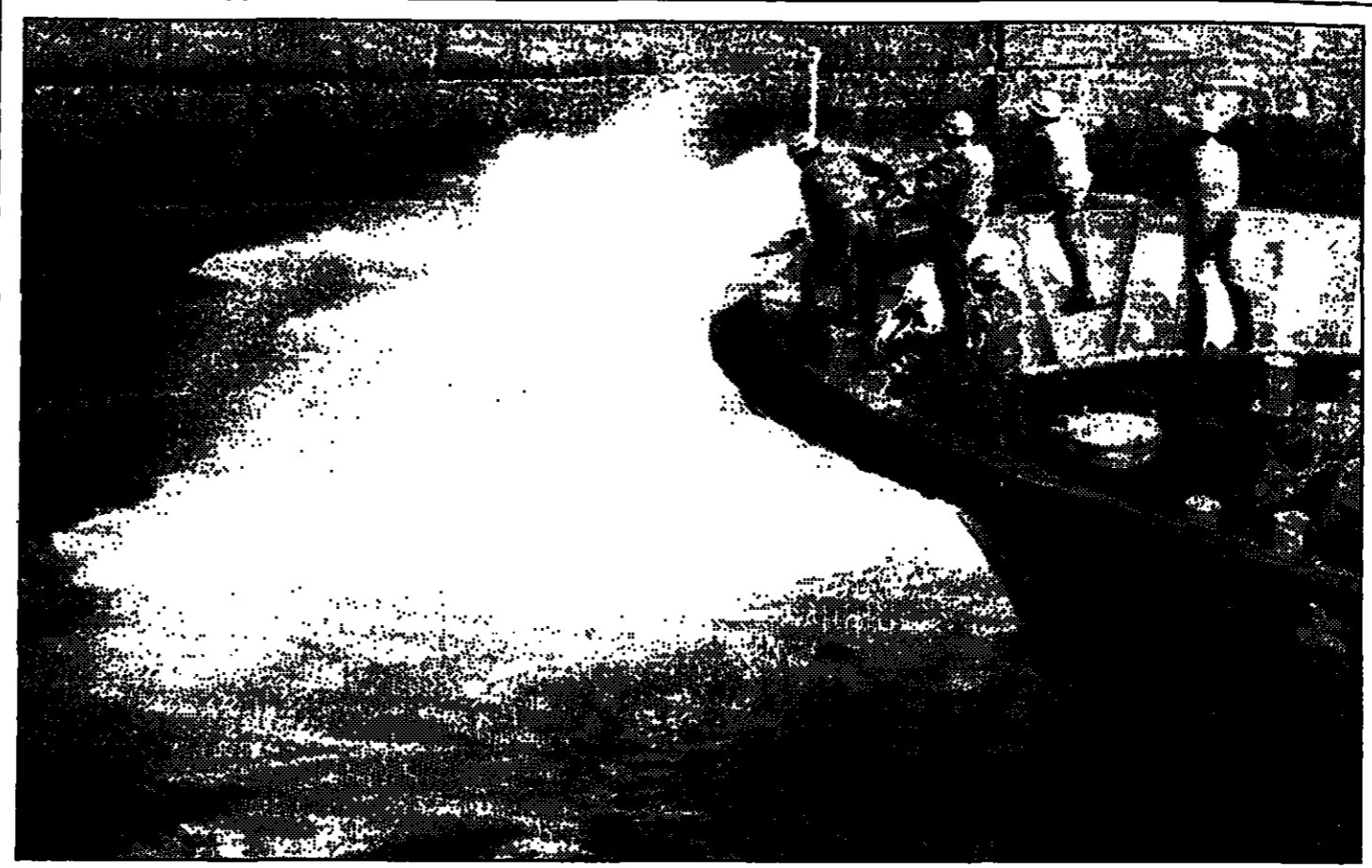
Scitex expected to post higher losses in '97
Lehman Brothers anticipates Scitex will post higher than expected losses in 1997 due to revised and reduced estimates for revenues in the graphic arts and digital video divisions. Despite the downward revision, Lehman Brothers said it believes that Scitex will post modest profits in the fourth quarter of the year and that "the worst may be over" for Scitex.

Tecnomatix raised to 'buy'
Tecnomatix Technologies Ltd. was raised to "buy" from a previous rating of long-term "attractive" by Robertson, Stephens & Co. Based in Herzliya, Tecnomatix develops software that allows production engineers in the automotive, aircraft and heavy industry sectors to create on-screen virtual manufacturing environments.

Koor postponed Yankee bond issue due to differences with Shamrock

Globes news service and Jerusalem Post Staff
Koor Industries' decision last month to postpone a Yankee bond issue, originally planned to be held this month in New York, stemmed from the company's refusal to heed majority share-holder Shamrock Group's demand that it be allocated a special dividend following the flotation, sources close to Koor's management said yesterday.

The dividend was to be paid out of excess liquidity, in the aftermath of the bond offer. Koor was set to raise \$300m. in that bond issue, whose lead underwriter was to have been Goldman-Sachs, along with Lehman Brothers and Salomon Brothers.
The official reason given at the time of the decision was the state of the shekel in currency markets, which at the time were exceptionally jittery due to the Bank of Israel's alteration of the exchange rate mechanism.
However, senior Koor sources now concede that while the currency situation always lurked in the background, the real reason for the delay was the brewing discord between majority shareholders Shamrock and Bank Hapoalim.
Shamrock has been seeking a series of spin-offs within Koor, while Bank Hapoalim has been resisting that strategy. Shamrock, for its part, wants to see a return on its investment in light of various operational difficulties.
Shamrock, in 1995, also took a sizable loan from Bank Hapoalim to finance its \$252 million purchase of a 20% stake in Koor, Israel's largest holding company.
Some analysts now believe that Shamrock is seeking to dispose of its holding in Koor. Shamrock president Stanley Gold has said several times in recent months that his company is dissatisfied with its investment in Koor, which has yet to yield it a profit.



Cleaning up
Workers on a fire boat spray chemical absorbent to clean up crude oil spreading across Tokyo Bay yesterday, after the super-tanker 'Diamond Grace' scraped a reef and its resulting punctured oil tanks caused Japan's worst-ever oil spill. The ship was carrying 257,000 tons of crude oil from the United Arab Emirates. (Reuters)

NIS 600m budget cut due soon - PM's office

By DAVID HARRIS
The NIS 600 million budget cut will be made in the coming days, a senior source in the Prime Minister's Office said this week.
There has been increasing speculation, particularly in the Treasury, that there would be no further budget cuts this year because Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu does not wish to cause any further rifts within the cabinet.
The cut will be implemented just as soon as the new finance minister is appointed, the source said.
However, the source said it is highly unlikely there will be any cut in expenditures beyond the NIS 600m. This comment came only days after the Bank of Israel warned that the government could overshoot its budget deficit target by as much as NIS 1.5 billion to NIS 2b.
As early as the first week in February, then-finance minister Dan Meridor warned that a sizable budget cut could be necessary, but argued the Treasury should wait until the end of the first quarter before deciding whether to cut.
While the first two months of the year produced considerable deficits, a surplus was recorded in each of the following three months, giving a January to May surplus of NIS 284m.
That trend was bucked this week, with the announcement of an NIS 2.937b. budget deficit (excluding granted net credit) for June. The Treasury is predicting, on the basis of previous years' experiences, that there will be several months in the second half of the year in which there will be high government expenditure.
In the Treasury budget department, the general wisdom is that the later in the year, the harder it becomes to implement a cut. Talks are already in full-swing within the Treasury over the 1998 budget and the expected NIS 2b. to NIS 4b. cut that will have to be made then. The size of the cut will be decided on the basis of the government target of bringing the budget deficit down to 2.4 percent of the gross domestic product. This year's target was set at 2.3% of GDP.
With regard to the 1997 proposed cut, the Finance Ministry says it is now out of its hands.
"Go, speak with the Prime Minister's Office," Treasury spokesman Eli Yosef said.

Merhav: Egypt-Israel oil project launched

By DAVID HARRIS
The contract for the construction of a \$1.3 billion joint Israeli-Egyptian oil refinery at Alexandria entered into force this week, meaning the largest single Arab-Israeli joint venture to date will be a reality, according to Nimrod Novick, the senior vice president of the Merhav Group, the Israeli partner in the scheme.
Construction work began some two months ago, with Merhav's investment, the largest of any Israeli company in Egypt.
Initially, Merhav and the Hussein K. Salem Group of Egypt both held a 40 percent stake in the project, with the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) holding the remainder. However,

in January EGPC upped its share to 60%, while the other partners reduced theirs. Through the sale, Merhav and Salem have reduced their interests to some \$70 million.
The refinery will produce an estimated 100,000 barrels a day, or 5m. tons of crude oil a year, two-and-a-half times the amount Israel annually imports from Egypt. The construction contracts, worth \$1b., were awarded to a European consortium and four American companies.
The refinery is being built by Technipetrol of Italy and Technip of France. The technology will come from UOP and Conoco-Bechtel of the US. The project's insurers are brokers Marsh & McLennan from the US and the Egyptian Missir Insurance. Merhav, Salem, and EGPC, which collectively form Middle East Refineries, called the project the most substantial joint venture ever between Israeli and Egyptian private investors.
The project received long-term credit worth \$300m. from the European Union's European Investment Bank.

Oil firms seek status quo in Hong Kong

By ANG BEE LIN
SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Asian oil companies hope oil trade policies in Hong Kong will stay unchanged after its handover to China, traders said yesterday.
"We hope that the status quo will remain as long as possible," said a trader at a European oil company in Hong Kong.
Other traders said they wanted the Basic Law, the mini-constitution that guarantees the Special Administrative Region a high degree of autonomy for 50 years, to be extended beyond that period.
"Hong Kong forms part of a vital trade route for oil exports from the rest of Asia to China. It would be good if trade policies remain the way they are because they work for both buyers and sellers," said a trader in Singapore.
While most traders do not see immediate policy changes to the oil trade in Hong Kong after the handover, uncertainties abound over its longer-term outlook.
"Hong Kong will be governed by China and is no longer under British rule; there will be some changes in the future," said a source at state-owned Chinese Resources Company (CRC) in Hong Kong.

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U.S. dollar (€100,000)	5.251	5.725	6.011
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (3.7.97)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.7752	3.8261	—	—	3.8131
U.S. dollar	3.4829	3.5381	3.42	3.58	3.5170
German mark	1.9847	2.0168	1.85	2.05	2.0053
French franc	5.5191	5.72	5.72	6.01	5.8899
Japanese yen (100)	0.5892	0.5888	0.57	0.61	0.5850
Dutch florin	3.0443	3.0835	2.99	3.14	3.0767
Swiss franc	1.7845	1.7930	1.78	1.82	1.7822
Norwegian krone	2.3658	2.4038	2.32	2.44	2.3817
Swedish krona	0.4480	0.4553	0.44	0.47	0.4518
Norwegian krone	0.4745	0.4823	0.46	0.49	0.4794
Danish krone	0.5214	0.5297	0.51	0.54	0.5296
Finnish mark	0.8581	0.8789	0.85	0.89	0.8729
Canadian dollar	2.5270	2.5588	2.48	2.61	2.5538
Australian dollar	2.6270	2.6894	2.58	2.71	2.6481
S. African rand	0.7894	0.7819	0.89	0.79	0.7771
Belgian franc (10)	0.9325	0.9782	0.94	1.00	0.9718
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8207	2.8682	2.77	2.91	2.8502
Italian lira (1000)	2.0389	2.0718	2.00	2.11	2.0611
Jordanian dinar	4.9124	4.9917	4.85	5.18	5.0117
Egyptian pound (E£)	0.9900	1.0800	0.89	1.08	1.0981
ECU	3.9263	3.9698	3.8698	3.9431	3.9431
Fish punt	5.3188	5.4024	5.22	5.48	5.3587
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3485	2.3874	2.30	2.43	2.3732

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various Israeli companies and their stock prices.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Stocks seen influenced by shekel trading

Mishtanim 295.15 ▲ +0.22% Maof 301.55 ▼ -0.23%

By FELICE MARANZ

Indexes closed mixed yesterday as investors watched the shekel, which weakened in late trading. Stocks are seen influenced in days ahead by shekel-dollar trading, which can affect exporters' profit and inflation.

The market has been pretty nervous, as investors watch

movements in the shekel, and as a political shadow - both internal and with the Palestinians - hangs over everything," said Zvi Hoffman, manager of mutual funds at Tel Aviv investment firm Meitav Ltd.

Declining shares yesterday included Koor Industries Ltd., which fell 2 percent. Shamrock Holdings, which holds 20% of Koor, may be interested in selling its holdings, according to news reports; Shamrock's president, Stanley Gold, has said he favors breaking up Koor's businesses. Koor's American depository receipts were down 5/16 at 18 in early trading.

The Maof Index of 25 issues fell 0.23% to 301.55 and the Mishtanim Index of 100 issues rose 0.22% to 295.15. The general bond index rose 0.12%. From the previous Thursday, the Maof Index rose 2.9% and the Mishtanim Index gained 3.4%, buoyed by a weaker shekel.

Of 976 shares trading across the exchange yesterday, almost three times as many shares rose as fell. About NIS 175 million worth of shares changed hands, NIS 16m. above Wednesday's level and about 18% below last month's daily average of NIS 214.5m.

Gaining chemical companies included Makhshim Chemical Works, which rose 0.5%, and its subsidiary Agan Chemical Works, which rose 1%.

Shares closing unchanged included Clal (Israel) Ltd. and Supersol. Blue Square rose 2.5% and Osem rose 1%.

Other banks were mixed, with Bank Hapoalim and First International Bank of Israel both closing unchanged. Israel Discount Bank fell 0.25%.

Chemical companies also were mixed. Israel Chemicals Ltd. sank 2.75%; Dead Sea Works dropped 3.25%; and Dead Sea Bromine fell 1%.

The future of the companies' management, once controlled by the late Shaul Eisenberg, is unclear, which may be hurting share prices, Hoffman said.

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MISHTANIM LEADING ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists various Israeli companies and their stock prices.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists various international companies and their stock prices.

NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE. Lists various New York companies and their stock prices.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists various market indexes and their values.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists various other market indexes and their values.

DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US)

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists various dollar cross-rates and their values.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Hong Kong stocks start down. LONDON (Reuters) - Shares gyrated wildly yesterday, plunging at the outset but then rebounding to record peaks despite the view that Wednesday's budget would lead to sharply higher interest rates. The FTSE 100 closed at 4,831.7, up 80.3 points, or 1.69 percent.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists various US commodities and their values.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists various London commodities and their values.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Last, Change. Lists various New York metal futures and their values.

LONDON METAL FIXES

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Stocks hit new highs in abbreviated session. NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks set a spate of new records yesterday on news of higher unemployment, boosting Wall Street's confidence that economic growth and low inflation continue to coexist.

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TECHNICAL WRITING (evening session)	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	July 3	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 7
WEB PUBLISHING	Wednesdays 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 5	Mon. and Wed. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	July 14
CNE Express Track (7 courses)	Mon. & Wed. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sep. 8	Tue. & Thur. 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Sep. 9
CNE Regular Track (7 courses)	Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Dec. 22	Tue. & Thur. 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 9
WINDOWS NT MCSE Express Track (6 courses)	Tue. & Thur. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sep. 9	Mon. & Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Sep. 8
WINDOWS NT MCSE Regular Track (6 courses)	Tue. & Thur. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 9	Mon. & Wed. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Sep. 9
PC SUPPORT ENGINEER (incl. CNA)	Wed. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Sep. 12	Wed. 9-1	Sep. 10
MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT	Wed. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Sep. 10	Sun. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Sep. 7
VISUAL C++	Mon. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Sep. 8	Sun. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Sep. 7
VISUAL BASIC	Mon. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Sep. 8	Sun. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Sep. 7
C PROGRAMMING	Mon. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Dec. 1	Mon. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Dec. 1
COREL DRAW	Mon. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Sep. 8	Wed. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Sep. 10

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HAIFA THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM, (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition: 'The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael' - Phenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Illness and Healing in Ancient Times - Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10:30-12:15, Fri. 10-1. Sat. 10-2. ADMISSION FREE.

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JERUSALEM MUSEUMS OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City, Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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TEL AVIV TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Soviet Photography from the Museum Collection 'Andrei Senzov: The Merges' Zvi Hecker, Sunflower 'Lucian Freud: Works from the early 1940s through the mid-1980s' Portraits by a group of Israeli artists. Ramat Hashikma, phone 04-622-9205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY PHARMACIES Friday, July 4 Jerusalem: Jafra Gate, 628-3998; Shufat, Shufat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aklawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.

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Pilots graduate in display of air power

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Cobra and Apache attack helicopters then blasted barrels sky high as CH-53s landed and deposited troops and jeeps on the tarmac. A Spitfire flew by, followed by an F-15, which roared into the sky and disappeared, only to return again as "Hatikva" sung by the crowd reached its climax.

"We will use all our efforts to advance the peace process and bring peace to Israel," said Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. "But we won't compromise on our security. We have the might to extend our hands in peace."

"Cadets, I am proud of you all. Spread your wings and fly. I pray you fly in peace and return in peace," Mordechai said.

While the exact number of graduating pilots is classified, today's pilot cadet is more likely to be Israeli-born and from a city, according to a survey of the graduating summer pilot's course published in this week's *Air Force Magazine*.

The number of kibbutzniks has dropped from 40 percent five years ago to just 11 percent today. Also noted was the 11 percent presence of kippa-clad pilot graduates, where there were none five years ago. A quarter of the pilots come from families where fathers or brothers were pilots; 100 percent of them were born in Israel.

Cheers from the crowd greeted another new phenomenon: four female pilot cadets marching in formation. They are slated to graduate in 18 months.

The latest class of air force pilots graduated yesterday in a spectacular display of air power, but this year's ceremony was held in the shadow of last February's fatal helicopter collision.

"The air force of 1997 is mightier and more determined than it ever has been," said Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen Amnon Lipkin-Shahak. "It has no competition and not just because of its advanced weaponry, but mainly because of the quality of its people."

"The helicopter tragedy was hard on all of us," he said, "but the true test of the air force is to learn the lessons, raise your heads, and continue."

The IAF had invited the families of the 73 servicemen killed in the February 4 collision of two CH-53 transport helicopters, as well as the children from the settlement of She'ar Yashuv, where one of the choppers crashed. The air force was determined to show itself at its best, and put on a show that had the audience gasping and cheering for more.

An aerobatic show by the Fouga jet trainer squadron was followed quickly by an attack on a collection of burned out armored hulks by a pair of F-4s and F-16s, each of which dived on their targets and unleashed four practice bombs.

"We're lucky they were filled with water and not 250 kilos of explosives, otherwise we wouldn't still be sitting here," the emcee said.

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S

NEWS

in brief

Deri statement 'an absolute lie'

Rabbi Aryeh Weinberg, one of the codedefendants in the fraud trial of Shas MK Aryeh Deri, said yesterday that Deri's statement that the Center for Prisoner Rehabilitation was founded to help the Lev Banim yeshiva, which Weinberg headed, was "an absolute lie."



Aryeh Deri

The center was founded by Lev Banim students to give Torah classes to prisoners and former prisoners who wished to become observant, he said. The center was headed by Ya'acov Shmuelovitz, who turned state's witness in the case, and he, Weinberg, was not involved in running it.

The prosecution is claiming that the center was set up to obtain funding that was then funneled to the yeshiva, which was having financial trouble. It claimed, for example, that the sale of the Lev Banim building to the center was a fictitious sale.

Budding scientists begin Weizmann program

Seventy-two high-school science stars from 17 countries have arrived at the Weizmann Institute to take part in its annual summer program. The 29th Dr. Bessie Lawrence International Summer Science Institute will run through August 1.

The teenagers, all of whom won science competitions in their own countries, come from places as varied as Singapore, Sweden, Colombia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. They will spend the summer studying with Weizmann scientists.

"We are excited by the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and interests of our student group this year," said Summer Science Institute director Laura Leibman-Alpers. Judy Siegel

Two Israelis saved as yacht sinks off Cyprus

An Israeli couple escaped their burning yacht in a lifeboat and watched it sink near Cyprus late Wednesday night. The couple, Moshe Sibek and an unidentified woman, were not injured in the blaze that broke out when one of the boat's engines caught fire. They were picked up by a Lebanese yacht and taken to Lamaca, and were due to return to Israel last night.

Gush Dan tax assessor suspended

Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander yesterday suspended Gush Dan tax assessor Yehoshua Vita, following an incident where Vita poured boiling water over the head of Income Tax Authority comptroller Yael Shavit, insulted her, and threatened her during a staff meeting. Vita faces a disciplinary hearing before a Civil Service court.

Health Ministry to prosecute catering firm

The Health Ministry yesterday decided to prosecute a catering firm after inspectors found deficiencies in the preparation of food it served at a bar mitzva celebration on Kibbutz Afek on Wednesday night. Of a total 1,500 persons at the party for 16 kibbutz bar mitzva boys, over 100 kibbutz members and dozens of guests suffered food poisoning as a result of the food being stored in improper containers and with inadequate refrigeration, the inspectors found. The district health officer also ordered the kibbutz catering hall closed until further notice.

Claims conference points out problems

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The executive committee of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, meeting in Jerusalem yesterday, has concluded there are basic, unresolved issues affecting its sharing of proceeds from the sale of restituted former East German properties with heirs who failed to file claims with German restitution agencies before the December 31, 1992 deadline.

This policy was originally formulated by the board of directors of the claims conference in 1994 and was reaffirmed in July 1996. "In view of the executive committee's concern," said Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the conference, "I have decided to call a special meeting of the full board this fall to consider these issues."

By the end of 1992, when the deadline for filing claims for formerly Jewish assets expired, the claims conference, designated as the successor organization under the German Property Restitution Law, filed claims for many communal and individual Jewish properties in eastern Germany to insure that former Jewish property not be forfeited to "aryanizers" or other German owners.

The conference anticipated that some heirs might appear after the

deadline. The board, consisting of representatives of 23 major Jewish organizations, established a goodwill fund in order to share with heirs proceeds from the sale of the properties, in accordance with a sliding scale. It also recommended extending the deadline for late claims until the end of December 1998.

Out of the proceeds from the sale of restituted properties, the conference has allocated some \$90 million since 1995 to 236 institutions aiding Holocaust survivors in 35 countries. A substantial majority of the funds were allocated to 120 projects in Israel, including the establishment of 3,000 nursing and psychogeriatric beds as well as 23 senior day centers.

In addition, over \$25m. has been allocated to underwrite lifesaving measures for Jewish Holocaust victims in the former Soviet Union. In 1997, the conference will have funded 300,000 basic food packages, 900,000 hot meals, assistance to homebound, winter relief, medical supplies and equipment, etc. to these most vulnerable survivors. Other projects supported by the successor organization funds provide shelter, social services, and emergency cash grants directly to survivors living in Israel, eastern Europe, the US, Australia, and other countries.

Clalit announces decentralization plan

By JUDY SIEGEL

Kupat Holim Clalit's new director-general, Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg, yesterday announced a more decentralized structure for the health fund, turning its eight districts and 15 hospitals into "independent profit centers" that must be run economically.

The new concept, said Peterburg, a former director-general of Beersheba's Soroka Hospital, gives the country's largest health insurer a "business-marketing orientation" that views health services as a service to customers.

Health Ministry director-general Prof. Gabi Barabash learned of the decision from *The Jerusalem Post* and had not been informed by the health fund.

"Our approval for the reorganization of a health fund is not required by law; we have only to approve

the constitution of a health fund. When we see the plan, we will comment," Barabash said.

Until now, said Peterburg, Clalit has been run as a centralized hierarchy. It will now be able to compete, increase efficiency, respond to its members and react more quickly to changes in the market.

Hospitals being turned into "independent profit centers" does not mean they will become non-profit corporations, which was the formula recommended in 1990 by the State Judicial Commission on the Health System, for government as well as Clalit hospitals.

Government hospitals today are run more or less on an economic basis, with significant independence for hospital directors, but they do not have the status of non-profit corporations. Per-bed expenditures are still higher in Clalit hospitals than in state institutions.

FUNDS

A letter of thanks



Bar-Ilan University students who received scholarships from The Jerusalem Post Funds, with university and Funds representatives.

By BEVERLEE BLACK

Many of you, shame on you, read *The Jerusalem Post* only on Friday, so you missed the *Post* on Monday with the moving letter sent to me on behalf of Rochel, a resident of Shmuel Hanaavi in Jerusalem. She wrote to thank the kind contributors to the Funds who helped change her life.

Rochel couldn't afford to pay for dental care and she was not covered by her health fund or any welfare office. Thanks to our Forsake Me Not Fund, we paid for her visits to the dentist and provided her with correct dentures enabling her to eat properly and not to be embarrassed in public. She wrote to thank you all "for changing her life and putting a smile on her face."

The letter from Rochel is similar to dozens that we receive here over the months and enables me to continually appeal to our readers and friends asking for your support.

There are hundreds of Rochels out there, and putting a smile on their faces is such a worthwhile job that I'm not in any way embarrassed to keep asking you for more and more.

Keep the checks flowing and just to remind you, you can also contribute by VISA. My phone number is (02) 537-6528. Mail your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000.

NOTE: Our next list will appear on July 18 and every other week from then on until further notice.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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\$36 in memory of my mother, Ceila Spector - Louise Leibman, Merion Station, PA.

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\$36 in memory of my beloved father, Hugo Weichsel, on the 20th anniversary of his yahrzeit, Sivan 17 - Werner Weichsel, Mexico.

\$25 Marvin Greenberg, Mission Viejo, CA. In loving memory of my parents, Eve and Jack Rubin, and my husband, Samuel L. Cohen, always, always in my heart - Madeline Cohen, Nahmya.

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NIS 20 For the speedy recovery of Tsvi Namir - Briana Simon, Moshav Hemed.

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IDF to pay Nablus man NIS 550,000

The state agreed yesterday in a compromise settlement to pay NIS 550,000 compensation to a Palestinian paralyzed from the waist down by IDF gunfire eight years ago.

ensured compensation to Hussein Alhadi for being wounded by a member of an undercover unit in Nablus in December 1989.

In acknowledging the compromise and giving it the force of a verdict, the Nazareth District Court

Alhadi, then 15, was waiting in line at a barber shop, when he was accidentally shot by troops pursuing a cell of the Black Panther terror group.



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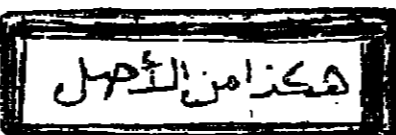
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By TERRY GRANOM

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Becker bows out of Wimbledon; Britons flop; Hingis, Novotna in final

LONDON (Reuters) - Three times champion Boris Becker said goodbye to Wimbledon yesterday, announcing after his quarter-final defeat by Pete Sampras that he would never play his favorite Grand Slam again.

Becker, who had no answer for Sampras's scorching serve losing 6-1, 6-4, told the American as he shook hands after the match that he would not be back.

Under he said publicly: "That was it for me. That was my last time at Wimbledon." The 29-year-old German who has said he considers Wimbledon his back yard, added he wanted to go out while he was playing well.

"I was glad it was against Pete, because he's such a great champion," Becker, something of an adopted son to the Wimbledon crowds, won his first championship as an unseeded boy of 17 in 1985. He successfully defended his title and won again in 1989 as well as appearing in four further finals.

But after several injuries he said he no longer felt up to two-week tournaments. He would continue playing shorter championships, he said.

Sampras's almighty serve sang against Becker as the world No. 1 strengthened his bid for his fourth Wimbledon title.

Sampras looked surprised and horrified when Becker told him of his decision at the net.

He was the second person to hear the news after Becker's wife Barbara, who watched the match in a characteristic state of nervous tension.

While Boris was taking a nostalgic bow on Center Court, his compatriot Michael Stich was celebrating runaway victory over British 14th seed Tim Henman.

Stich, champion here in 1991 but playing his last months of professional tennis, crushed British hopes of a first semifinalist for 24 years with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory.

The win compounded the partisan crowd's misery following the loss of Greg Rusedski to Frenchman Cedric Pioline 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 a few hours earlier.

Sampras, who meets Australian doubles specialist Todd Woodbridge in today's semifinals, had Becker on the defensive from the outset, taking the first three games before the



YOU SAY GOODBYE, I SAY HELLO - Pete Sampras plays a forehand volley during his quarterfinal match with Boris Becker yesterday. After losing, Becker bids farewell to the Center Court crowd for the last time.



(Reuters)

German had warmed up.

His first serve thumped home with wrist-wrenching regularity and he returned with robotic consistency.

Becker showed some moments of his old brilliance - tumbling volleys and backhand passes, but he had no real answer to the man-machine across the net.

He earned only three break points against the Sampras serve, which included 19 aces. But Sampras said he felt the Becker was still playing very well.

The eagerly-awaited 'Battle of Britain' semifinal between Henman and Rusedski never made it beyond the end of the runway as Stich and Pioline rewrote the script with clever tactical performances.

Stich, who beat Becker in the 1991 Wimbledon final, is retiring in September because he is unable to shake off a persistent problem with his serving arm, but his tennis brain remains in perfect working order.

After play was halted by rain for two hours 43 minutes with just one game completed, the German re-emerged to remind Henman that there is more to winning Wimbledon than simply beating the defending

champion.

"It's probably the worst experience of my career so far. To reach the quarter-finals of Wimbledon and lose in the way I did was very disappointing.

"I don't actually know the reasons why. It's what makes it so frustrating. Twenty-four hours ago I was playing some of my best tennis of my career. Now I'm talking to you having played some of the worst tennis of my career."

Stich was understandably delighted at the outcome which reduced the Court Number One crowd to mere resignation.

"My tactic was to be ahead from the start to keep the crowd quiet and it worked perfectly," he said. "I didn't come here just to win a couple of nice matches and retire, I came here to win the championship."

Like Henman, Rusedski also never hinted at the form which had propelled him into the last eight and had only himself to blame as his challenge petered out tamedly on a cool, windy day.

His massive serve failed to dig him out of early trouble and Pioline, ranked 44th in the world, played

with increasing assurance to become only the second French semifinalist at Wimbledon in the Open era.

Woodbridge, half of the highly successful doubles partnership with compatriot Mark Woodforde, has never previously advanced beyond the fourth round in a grand slam singles event.

But he showed the cooler head against Germany's Nicolas Kiefer, surviving the loss of the second set to wrap up victory in two hours 35 minutes.

Women's semis

Top seed Martina Hingis ended Anna Kournikova's dream Wimbledon debut to move into her third consecutive grand slam final where she will meet sentimental favorite Jana Novotna.

Hingis, who became the youngest grand slam winner this century by winning the Australian Open in January, added yet another record to her name by beating the unseeded Russian prodigy 6-3, 6-2 in just over an hour.

Hingis becomes the youngest Wimbledon finalist in the Open era, surpassing the previous record of 18 years set by Graf in 1987.

The battle of the two 16-year-olds, however, failed to live up to its expectations as a stoppiece of the new look of the women's game will take into the millennium.

It was left to the veterans Novotna, at 28, and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, 25, to carry the flag for the women's game.

Third seeded Novotna, who said her father had watched the match from his hospital bed in her home town of Brno in the Czech Republic, charged the net at every opportunity on her way to beating Sanchez Vicario 6-4, 6-2.

"We will see two contrasts of style (in the final) which will make for good tennis," said Novotna, who has been a crowd favorite at Wimbledon after losing the 1993 final to Steffi Graf when she had been within reach of victory.

Novotna and Sanchez Vicario, who parted ways acrimoniously two years ago after dominating women's doubles, exchanged bitter words in the lead up to the match.

The spat appeared to spill over onto the court, both players attacking every shot with aggression, opting for sheer power instead of poise.

SPORTS in brief

Ziv reaches Junior Wimbledon 3rd round

Kobi Ziv reached the third round of the Wimbledon junior tournament yesterday to become the sole Israeli player left in the event. Ziv, seeded fourth, beat Slovakia's Miloslav Groitman 7-5, 7-6(9) after squeezing through the prolonged tiebreak. In the first round Ziv disposed of Russia's Arsen Demapasko 7-6(5), 6-4. Ziv next faces the twelfth seed, Miha Gregorc from Slovenia. Andy Ram and Rotem Teperberg both exited after their first round matches.

Ram went down to Leyton Hewitt from Australia 6-3, 6-2 and Teperberg lost her game against Australia's Evie Dominjkovic 6-2, 6-4.

Heather Chait

National pole vault mark improved by 19 cm

Women's pole vault champion Tali Greener improved her own record for the second time in one week yesterday by 19 centimeters, setting a new height of 3.60 meters.

Earlier this week Greener lifted her record by one centimeter to 3.41m in the European Team Cup championships in Denmark.

Heather Chait

American football clinics to open in fall

Registration begins today for American football clinics that will be given in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Ra'anana this fall. Any 8-16 year-olds interested in participating can register at a local McDonald's or call 03-5124041. Anybody interested in coaching, call Danny Gewirtz at 02-5351364.

In related news, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft has been named honorary president of NFL Israel. Kraft, a great supporter of Israel who opened a \$40 million packaging plant in Caesarea last week, said that he hopes to get 25,000 Israeli kids to play American football this fall.

Eli Groner

Celtic name Jansen as new trainer

GLASGOW (Reuters) - Celtic named former Feyenoord coach Wim Jansen as the Scottish club's new trainer yesterday.

The club said in a news conference that Dutchman Jansen would take over from Tommy Burns, who was dismissed in May after three years in charge.

Though Celtic challenged arch-rivals Rangers for the Scottish title last season, Burns was judged to have failed in his task of ending their dominance.

Celtic fans were aggrieved that this year Rangers equalled their record of nine successive Scottish league championships.

Knicks re-sign Ewing

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Around-the-clock negotiations paid off for the New York Knicks and Patrick Ewing when the 11-time NBA All-Star center signed a four-year contract worth more than \$60 million Wednesday, one day after he became a free agent.

"We have unfinished business," said Ewing, who in his 12 seasons with New York is still seeking an NBA title. "Now I look forward to bringing the team and the fans the championship they deserve. I want to be a part of it." Ewing, who will turn 35 on August 5, became eligible for free agency Tuesday, but the Knicks - who under salary cap rules could exceed any offer by another team - moved swiftly to re-sign him.

Ewing's agent, David Faulk, also wanted to clear up his business with the Knicks quickly and then move on to another client - Michael Jordan, also a free agent who has yet to re-sign with the NBA champion Chicago Bulls.

"Michael and Patrick rank number one and two in the NBA," Faulk said. "Ewing never wanted to entertain any other offers, he just wanted market value for a center of his calibre. He wanted to stay here in New York."

Ewing's \$15 million-plus annual average salary - Faulk would not divulge details but said the four-year package was worth more than \$60 million - would put him in line with fellow All-Star centers Hakeem Olajuwon and David Robinson.

Ewing was selected first overall by the Knicks in the 1985 draft - the first lottery pick ever.

Ewing's Knicks came closest to a title in 1994 when they lost in the NBA Finals to the Houston Rockets in seven games.

Ewing, who will become the first player ever to play 13 seasons in a Knicks uniform (passing Carl Braun), is the team's all-time career leader in games (913), minutes (33,403), rebounds (9,513), steals (979), blocks (2,516) and points (21,539), and is third in scoring average.

On the NBA career lists he is 19th in scoring with 21,539 points and fifth in blocks with 2,516. He has a career average of 23.6 points per game, 10.4 rebounds per game, and 513 shooting percentage. He was named one of the league's 50 greatest players of its first 50 years.

Steve Waugh defies England with 102

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Steve Waugh held England at bay with an outstanding unbeaten 102 on the opening day of the third Ashes Test at Old Trafford yesterday.

Australia, tottering at 113 for five and later 160 for seven, reached 224 for seven at the close after an unfinished eighth wicket stand of 64 between Waugh and Paul Reiffell.

England pace bowling debutant Dean Headley took three for 67 and wicketkeeper Alec Stewart held five catches to help give their side the early initiative.

A damp pitch had bare patches as well as green ones and, although

conditions were overcast, Australian captain Mark Taylor still chose to bat after winning the toss for the third time in the six-Test series, which England lead 1-0.

Vice-captain and century-maker Waugh said: "It was a bit of a gamble, but you don't win Test matches by being negative. The pitch is definitely in favor of the bowlers and the way it's turned out, I think we've won the day."

Taylor was the first of three batsmen to fall early on, and the first to lose his wicket to Headley. He scored only two, failing for the third time in four Test innings.

The Kent paceman had made cricket history even before bowling

his first ball, as grandfather George and father Ron played Tests for West Indies. Three members of the same family have played Tests before, but not from three different generations.

"It's the pinnacle of my career so far," said Headley. "I'm very proud to be part of the family." His father, who was at the ground, said: "He's never been coached, he's done it all by himself. My father believed in guidance, not traditional coaching and that's what I've done with Dean." Moving the ball away from the left-handers, Headley also dismissed Matthew Elliott and Michael Bevan to catches by Stewart, though Elliott felt the ball

had come off his arm.

Mark Ealham, one of four players in the England team whose fathers played test cricket, picked up the wickets of Mark Waugh and Shane Warne.

Darren Gough bowled Greg Blewett and Andy Caddick accounted for Ian Healy, Stewart's fifth catch giving him a chance of equalling the world record of seven dismissals in an innings.

Steve Waugh batted with typical resolution to reach three figures in 152 deliveries with his 12th four in the day's last over.

He said of his 13th Test century: "I thought I played as well as I've ever played in a test. I haven't

picked the gaps like that for a long while."

Australia first innings

M. Taylor c. Stewart b. Headley 2
 G. Blewett c. Stewart b. Headley 40
 G. Blewett b. Gough 8
 M. Waugh c. Stewart b. Ealham 112
 S. Waugh not out 102
 M. Bevan c. Stewart b. Headley 7
 I. Healy c. Stewart b. Caddick 9
 S. Warne c. Stewart b. Ealham 3
 P. Reiffell not out 26
 Extras (b-8 b-4 nb-30) 15
 Total (7 wickets) 224
 Wickettakers: 1-8, 2-22, 3-42, 4-85, 5-113, 6-150, 7-160
 To bat: J. Gillespie, G. McGrath
 Bowling: Gough 17-6-46-1, Headley 23-4-67-3, Caddick 14-2-62-1, Ealham 11-2-34-2, Croft 4-0-19-0
 England: Michael Atherton (capt), Mark Butcher, Alec Stewart, Nasser Hussain, Graham Thorpe, John Crawley, Mark Ealham, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Andy Caddick, Dean Headley.

Braves' Greg Maddux three-hits Yankees

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Greg Maddux pitched a three-hitter and Ryan Klesko belted his second homer in as many days to lead the Atlanta Braves to their seventh victory in eight games, 2-0 over the New York Yankees on Wednesday.

Maddux (11-3), who has won his last four starts, struck out eight and did not walk a batter in his first outing at Yankee Stadium since losing the decisive sixth game of the 1996 World Series.

Maddux has not walked a batter in his last five starts, covering 36 innings. Maddux threw just 86 pitches in recording his second shutout of the season and 23rd of his career. He gave up only three outfield outs while facing just 28 batters.

The Braves took the final two games of the series after New York recorded a 1-0, 10-inning victory Monday. The teams combined for only seven runs in the three-game series.

Blue Jays 7, Expos 6
 In Toronto, Joe Carter's single

with two out in the bottom of the 13th scored Otis Nixon with the winning run as the Blue Jays salvaged the finale of their Canadian interleague series with the Montreal Expos, 7-6.

Carter, who snapped an 0-for-16 slump with a fifth-inning homer, blooped a 3-2 pitch from Ugoeth

Urbina into shallow center.

Toronto's Mike Timlin (2-0) tossed 3 1/3 scoreless innings to notch the victory in his longest relief stint in 22 months.

Carlos Delgado also homered for Toronto while David Segui and Vladimir Guerrero homered for Montreal.

Defending champion Riis starts as Tour favorite

PARIS (Reuters) - Bjarne Riis, the man who unexpectedly toppled Tour de France supremo Miguel Indurain last year, will again be the man to beat when cycling's most prestigious race takes off tomorrow.

By beating the Spaniard 12 months ago, the 33-year-old Dane pushed Indurain into retirement and opened a new era.

The only certain fact ahead of the 3,870-km, three-week race, which seems to be designed for climbers: this year, is that it will start from Rouen without Indurain for the first time in a decade.

As no clear successor has emerged to the only rider to have won five Tours in succession, Riis again looks the safest bet.

Ten months ago, when the race itinerary was disclosed, it

was thought that with its 15 first-category mountain passes and less emphasis on time trials, the 1997 Tour would favor mountaineers.

Recent Tour history confirmed the impression since the race has seemed to crown pure climbers - Lucien Van Impe in 1987, Pedro Delgado in 1988 - over 10 years or so.

But the best two mountain specialists in the bunch have had their problems recently.

Italian Marco Pantani crashed in the Giro d'Italia and the most gifted climber in the world may not have fully recovered when those left from the 198 starters reach the Pyrenees on Bastille Day.

King of the mountains from 1994 to 1996, Frenchman Richard Virenque, who was third last year, had his preparation hampered by dental surgery in May.

Giro winner Ivan Gotti is the other climber with a real chance but he may be tired after his Italian campaign.

All-rounders Alex Zülle of Switzerland and Abraham Olano of Spain have long been named Indurain's likeliest successors.

But Zülle, like Pantani, has had his promising career halted often by crashes and the gifted Swiss, who has fallen twice this season, will start the Tour with an injured collarbone.

Olano, the world champion in 1995, finished on the podium of the 1995 Vuelta and last year's Giro but he fell last month in the Dauphine Libere race.

French hopes will rest with Virenque, Laurent Jalabert and Luc Leblanc, both highly-talented riders who may lack the little extra something that makes Tour winners.

Briton Chris Boardman, arguably the best track rider on earth, is in the same position. Hardly anyone expects him to be consistent enough over three weeks.

Only Riis seems to combine the strength, experience and talent to master this extremely hard Tour, especially in a gruelling second week featuring all mountain stages plus a tough 55-km individual time trial in St Etienne.

The main opposition to the Dane may come from his own ranks.

Young German Jan Ullrich, second last year, made it clear that he would not miss his chance if he were in a position to beat his team leader in the 63-km individual time trial staged around Paris Disneyland on the penultimate day.

Intertoto Cup soccer brings magic to the Welsh valleys

By TERRY GRANDIN

EBBW VALE, Wales (Reuters) - The choir sang the Welsh national anthem in perfect harmony, the ball-boys received commemorative plaques marking the big day and even the weather stayed kind.

At Ebbw Vale and in towns all over Europe during the summer months similar scenes encapsulating civic pride and hopeful enthusiasm will be seen as the Intertoto Cup - with three of the field of 60 looking to secure a place in the UEFA Cup at the start of next season.

The choir were singing at Ebbw Vale, a rugby club at the start of the Gwent Valleys in the industrial belt of South Wales, where the visitors were

the Austrian professionals Casino Graz.

To the part-timers of Ebbw Vale of the League of Wales, it was the biggest day in their club's history.

The occasion was rather a special one for Casino Graz too - but for very different reasons. It showed them the other side of football.

Only last October they beat mighty Internazionale Milan 1-0 at home in the second leg of their second round UEFA Cup match - only losing the tie to the Italians on penalties.

Now they were up against a team containing three steelworkers, a policeman, a greengrocer, a car salesman, a garage mechanic, two leisure center workers and a nightclub owner.

Around 500 fans, including Bobby Gould, the manager of the Welsh national side, and Brian Fear, president of the Football Association of Wales, found their way to Eugene Cross Park, also the home of the town's more illustrious rugby club.

Ebbw Vale's manager John Lewis - who played

League football for Cardiff, Newport and Swansea, could not have asked for any more from his players.

In contrast, his opposite number Klaus Augenthaler a member of West Germany's 1990 World Cup winning side and a former Bayern Munich star, must have wished for far more from his.

It was a classic case of local vigor and enthusiasm, allied to a degree of native cunning, that cut the Austrians down to size and brought Ebbw Vale a highly creditable goalless draw.

This was the ninth Intertoto Cup match played by a Welsh side, and to date they have managed one goal and are still awaiting their first win.

But at least Ebbw Vale notched only the second point secured by a Welsh team and Augenthaler believes they can do even better as the competition progresses.

"Ebbw Vale proved themselves to be a very, very strong team.

They were totally committed for 90 minutes. They played typically British kick and rush and in the end I have to say it was a very good result for us."

"We played the Danish side Silkeborg the week before Ebbw Vale and beat them 2-0. I think Ebbw Vale are a better team than Silkeborg and should beat them." Lewis was delighted with the way his team performed.

"Getting into Europe is a real boost for us. We live in the shadow of the rugby club, even though we share facilities, and they are the talk of the town at the moment because of the £1 million pounds offered to them by Marcus Russell, the manager of the Oasis pop group.

"So I told all the players they were not only representing the club in Europe, but the whole town and Wales as well.

"This is our big chance to prove that Ebbw Vale is not just a rugby town but also a soccer hot-bed. It

is also a one-off opportunity to sell the club to sponsors and backers and we have got off to a great start."

Lewis's ploy of restricting the width of the pitch to about 60 meters paid dividends for his side who were also helped by the woodwork.

Graz hit the post twice and skimmed the bar once and home goalkeeper Dave Williams also made several superb saves. Franz Almer in the Graz goal tipped over a goalbound header in the first half and although the game lacked a goal, it kept the home fans on the edge of their seats.

Ebbw Vale's remaining matches are against Croatian first division side Dragovotjac, Bastia of France, and Silkeborg.

It may not be the stuff of legends, but in Ebbw Vale, it most certainly is the stuff of dreams.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Cliff Lewis

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